

Job Description



Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels – Developing Community Action Grey Squirrel Officer Eastern Angus (seasonal full time) (Fixed term, mid-January – end July 2020)

Based	Home-based. Location flexible within eastern Angus i.e. approx. Forfar – Montrose.
Dept/Region	Conservation
Line Manager	<i>Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels – Developing Community Action (SSRS-DCA)</i> Conservation Officer Tayside

Overall Purpose of the Job

Contribute to the implementation of a programme of targeted grey squirrel control to prevent grey squirrel incursion into Scotland's core "red-only" squirrel populations in highland Scotland by carrying out grey squirrel control on private and public land in key parts of Tayside.

Key Internal and External Contacts

- SSRS Conservation Officer for Tayside (Tayside CO)
- Other SSRS Grey Squirrel Officers and contractors
- Landowners / managers, foresters / woodland managers, gamekeepers, volunteers & householders

Main Duties

Mainly in the area from Forfar to Montrose north to the River North Esk, or other areas as advised by the SSRS Tayside CO.

Grey Squirrel Control

1. Carry out grey squirrel control according to the SSRS-DCA project's Standard Operating Procedures to provide coverage for the "at-risk" areas not yet covered by land managers or volunteers.
2. Take responsibility for approaching the relevant landowners, estate managers and staff on private land to make arrangements for access to carry out control, including obtaining written access permission, associated maps and completion of other necessary paperwork. Secure continued cooperation.
3. Encourage land manager and householders in the SSRS target areas to carry out grey squirrel control on their own land. To include providing SSRS-approved training and equipment under a trap-loan scheme where time permits.
4. Assist in recruiting landowners/ managers in critical gaps in the network to apply for Forestry Grant Scheme funding for grey squirrel control; carry out site visits to identify trap placement.
5. Provide support for land managers and individuals in their red squirrel conservation efforts, building contact networks throughout the geographical patch and encouraging best trapping practice, standardised information recording, completion of the necessary paperwork and regular information sharing.
6. Assist the Tayside CO to deliver workshops and training sessions to volunteers in all aspects of grey squirrel control.
7. Utilise baited squirrel hair-traps or remote trap monitors to increase the efficiency of trapping.
8. Keep accurate records of trapping effort, location and results in Excel to agreed SSRS project standards; submit records and timesheets monthly.
9. Produce risk assessments for all outdoor work and comply with SWT policy for personal and third-party safety.
10. Add new grey squirrel volunteers and their trapping records to the SSRS Hub (database).

<p>Other</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Conduct grey squirrel control within sample sites in order to take blood samples for Squirrelpox virus testing and complete necessary record keeping. 12. Distribute posters and leaflets in relevant/key places in order to encourage the reporting of squirrel sightings. 13. Record sightings of red and grey squirrels in the area via the SSRS online squirrel reporting page or on the incidental sightings / shot squirrels form in the trapping spreadsheet. <p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Where time and resources permit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Encourage interest in local red squirrel conservation with relevant local communities and organisations encountered while undertaking control work and encourage recording and reporting of squirrel sightings on https://scottishsquirrels.org.uk 15. Assist the Tayside CO to respond to enquiries from the public regarding grey squirrel control for red squirrel conservation.

<p>Personal Specification</p> <p>Essential Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SVQ/NVQ level 2 or equivalent qualification in Game and Wildlife Management or related discipline or relevant experience of game keeping or invasive/non-native mammal control. • Good understanding of conservation principles, practices and legislation. <p>Essential Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum two years' previous experience in practical wildlife management, gamekeeping or other relevant field. • Proven experience at keeping accurate and comprehensive records using Microsoft Excel. • Experience of working successfully with landowners and members of the public. • Proven ability to work in a strategic manner. <p>Special Competencies:</p> <p>Skills and Abilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control operations must comply with best practice and legislation and the 'SSRS-DCA Standard Operating Procedures for Grey Squirrel Control'. Training will be given. • Self-motivated, energetic and enthusiastic, with a strong work ethic and proven reliability; ability to manage own time schedule; willing to work some unsocial hours. • Understanding of working in a strategic manner to deliver efficient animal population control. • Ability to communicate successfully with colleagues, stakeholders, landowners, householders and the wider public. • A love of outdoor working and ability to access and work in woodland sites, some of which are remote. • Willing to learn new skills and operating methods and attend training as advised by the Tayside CO. • Confidence to deliver workshops and training sessions as required. • Full clean UK driving licence. • Current air-weapon licence will be required if using air weapon for dispatch. <p>Advantageous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarity with eastern Tayside geography. • First Aid certificate. • A knowledge of forest and native tree species. • Commitment to environmental causes.
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Date	04 October 2019		
Author	Mel Tonkin	Position	Saving Scotland's red Squirrels Project Manager