



Press Release: Feb 2016

Volunteer with Flows to the Future

If you have time on your hands, then the Flows to the Future Project may just have the volunteering role to suit you. The project is looking for volunteers with an interest in environmental issues such as climate change, who would like to help spread the word about the peatlands. This could either be through working with schools or community groups. Flows to the Future is an exciting Heritage Lottery funded project about the peatlands of the Flow Country. Larger areas of damaged peat bogs of the Flow Country are being restored and research is finding out how to best do this. The vast peatlands in this area are important in many ways and the project is organising all kinds of activities to help people understand and appreciate this.

The Project's Learning Officer is developing and delivering a range of learning activities for young people of all ages. Volunteers are needed to help with schools coming to the RSPB's Forsinard Flows reserve and the nearby area. Given the distances involved however, many of the activities will take place indoors or outdoors at the schools themselves or on peatlands on their doorstep, across Caithness and Sutherland. Volunteers can therefore opt to help with schools in their local area. No experience is needed, but it would be a bonus if potential volunteers had worked with young people before and have some interest in sustainable development and climate change. This is a great opportunity to get or share experience in preparing and

delivering outdoor learning, make a difference in your local area and find out more about the peatlands.

The Flows to the Future Project is also delivering a range of community based activities and volunteers are needed to enable us to involve even more people in the peatlands. These activities are taking place across Caithness and Sutherland, so volunteers can opt to work in their local area or beyond, supporting the Project's Communities Officer. Events so far have included guided walks and art based workshops linked to the peatlands, but there is plenty of scope for bringing any ideas or expertise. As with the schools work, no particular experience is required, but it would be useful if volunteers had some interest in the peatlands and enjoy working as a team. These opportunities are a great way of meeting like minded people and gaining experience of planning and delivering events.

The volunteering is offered through the RSPB, who have lots of experience of offering volunteer opportunities and provide excellent support. Training is provided and agreed transport costs are covered. Find out more about the volunteering opportunities on the Flow Country website. www.theflowcountry.org.uk or by contacting Sjoerd Tel on 07912774587 or by email sjoerd.tel@rspb.org.uk.



NOTES TO EDITORS

The Peatlands Partnership includes Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Highland Council, RSPB Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, The Highland Third Sector Interface, The Flow Country Rivers Trust, The Northern Deer Management Group and The Environmental Research Institute. It liaises with local community groups, the Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate and the North Sutherland Community Forest Trust. It is independently chaired by John Henderson of Scrabster Farm, Caithness.

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