BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE TECHNICIAN (WILDLIFE~CARNIVORE)

Forest Service

4 vacancy - Hungry Horse, MT

Work Schedule is Full-Time - Temporary

Opened Wednesday 4/13/2016 (2 day(s) ago)

Closes Tuesday 4/19/2016 (4 day(s) away)

- **Salary Range**
  $15.49 to $15.49 / Per Hour

- **Series & Grade**
  GS-0404-05/05

- **Promotion Potential**
  05

- **Supervisory Status**
  No

- **Who May Apply**
  US Citizens and Nationals; no prior Federal experience is required.

- **Control Number**
  435728000

- **Job Announcement Number**
  16-TEMP-RMRS-404-5WLD-DT

Job Description

**Job Summary**

A career with the Forest Service will challenge you to manage and care for more than 193 million acres of our nation's most magnificent lands, conduct research through a network of forest and range experiment stations and the Forest Products Laboratory, and provide assistance to State and private forestry agencies.

It's an awesome responsibility - but the rewards are as limitless as the views.
This position is temporary and has a Not-to-Exceed date. However, an extension of the appointment may be possible without further competition. The appointment may also end early due to lack of work or funds.

This vacancy announcement is for one or more locations at the Rocky Mountain Research Station, Hungry Horse, MT. The number and location of positions to be filled will be dependent upon individual unit needs.

This position is located on a Forest Service Research unit and performs duties in support of the wildlife management program. For additional information about this position, please contact John Squires at (406)542-4162, jsquires@fs.fed.us or Roberta Steele at (406)542-4162, rfsteele@fs.fed.us

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT: Some positions will have varying work schedules. Some positions may have irregular and protracted hours of work. Tours of duty include full-time or less than full-time and will involve working weekends or irregular work hours. Considerable travel may be required. Some positions involve work that requires travel away from the official duty location to remote worksites within commuting distance (49 miles).

Positions will be filled as a temporary appointment up to 6 months.

The USDA Forest Service has legislative authority to recruit and fill Permanent (Career/Career-Conditional), Temporary, and Term Appointments under the USDA Demonstration Project. Under this authority, any U.S. citizen may apply.

Duties

Individually, as a leader, or part of a team, conducts studies of forest carnivores (e.g. lynx, wolverines) and their prey. These studies require a demonstrated experience in locating carnivores with conventional radio telemetry to study habitat relationships and to locate dens. Studies also require trapping/handling important prey species (e.g. snowshoe hare, tree and ground squirrels, voles), sampling relative prey abundance with pellet and trap surveys, and sampling the structure and composition of woody vegetation. Collects data following a prescribed protocol. Identifies woody plant species common to the area. Navigates on public and private road systems without direct supervision. Locates off-road study sites and sample points using compass, topographic maps and/or GPS unit. Records field data in a legible manner. Enters field data into a computer database. May assist in proofing and editing data forms and database. Maintains field equipment in good working condition.

Travel Required

- 75% or Greater
- Per work assignment

Relocation Authorized

- No

Job Requirements
Key Requirements

- Must be a U.S. Citizen/National to apply
- Males born after 12/31/59 must be registered with the Selective Service

Qualifications

You must possess the Basic Requirements identified below to be considered eligible for this position. Transcripts must be provided for qualifications based on education. Your application or resume must clearly show that you possess the appropriate experience requirements.

GS-05: One year of specialized experience equivalent to the 04 level performing work related to the duties of this position. Examples of work experience that meet this requirement include: Performed steps or sections of procedural assignments in providing technical support in a wildlife management field environment. Used designated well-established guidelines to compute, compile, and present data in reports for a biological or scientific program. Participated in wildlife assignments, performing such tasks as studying Forest carnivores and their prey; handling and trapping prey species, which also includes: collecting, organizing, and analyzing wildlife-related data. Kept detailed records of findings or results of biological science tests and procedures. - OR

Successful completion of a 4-year course of study above high school leading to a bachelor's degree with at least 24 semester hours or the equivalent in a combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics.- OR

A combination of experience and education in excess of the first 60 semester hours of a course of study leading to a bachelor's degree which is equivalent to 1 year of work experience as defined above.

Selective placement factors:

These special or additional knowledges, skills, or abilities are needed for this position, applicants who do not possess the additional KSA's will not receive further consideration:

1. Demonstrated experience conducting biological surveys/sampling/inventory of plants and/or wildlife.
2. Experience conducting wildlife radio telemetry.
3. Demonstrated experience conducting wildlife trapping and handling.

APPLICANTS PLEASE NOTE: Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications (particularly positions with a positive education requirement.) Therefore, applicants must report only attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Applicants can verify accreditation at the following website: http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html%20 All education claimed by applicants will be verified by the appointing agency accordingly.
*** If you are using foreign education to meet qualification requirements, you must send a Certificate of Foreign Equivalency with your transcript in order to receive credit for that education. ***

To receive consideration for this position, you must meet all qualification requirements on the closing date of this announcement.

Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community, student, social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies, knowledge, and skills and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

No additional requirements

Security Clearance

Other

Additional Information

What To Expect Next

If you set up your USAJOBS account to send automatic email notifications, you will receive an acknowledgement email that the submission of your online Occupational Questionnaire and resume was successful, if you were referred to the selecting official for consideration, and if you were selected or not selected. If you choose not to set up automatic email notifications, you must check your USAJOBS account for the latest status of your application. Your application may be reviewed to verify that you meet the qualifications and eligibility requirements for the position prior to issuing lists to a selecting official. If further evaluation or interviews are required, you will be contacted. Normally, a final job offer to the selected candidate is made within 30-60 days after the issuance of the certificate.

BENEFITS

Health Insurance Coverage: As of July 17, 2012 certain temporary employees who are firefighters or who are qualified to provide direct on-site support to fire incidents are eligible for coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program. Upon appointment you will be notified if you are eligible to enroll under the FEHB program.

For more information on the available federal health insurance plans go to: [http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/planinfo/index.asp](http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/planinfo/index.asp)

Other Information

- Relocation expenses are not authorized.

- Bargaining Unit Status: Coverage is dependent upon unit location.
• Career Transition Assistance Plan (CTAP) or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP): If you are claiming CTAP/ICTAP eligibility, provide proof of eligibility. CTAP/ICTAP eligible must meet the agency's definition for a quality candidate to be considered. Information about CTAP/ICTAP eligibility is on OPM's Career Transition Resources website at http://www.opm.gov/ctap/index.asp

• BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION AND FINGERPRINT CHECK: Selection and retention in this position is contingent on a successfully adjudicated FBI National Criminal History Check (fingerprint check) and a background investigation.

• If you are retired from the Federal Government and are selected for this vacancy, your retirement annuity may be offset from your pay.

• Have your salary sent to a financial institution of your choice by Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer.

• If you are newly hired, the documentation you present for purposes of completing the Department Homeland Security (DHS) Form I-9 on your entry-on-duty date will be verified through the DHS “E-VERIFY” system. Federal law requires the use of E-VERIFY to confirm the employment eligibility of all new hires. Under this system, the new hire is required to resolve any identified discrepancies as a condition of continued employment.

• Government housing may be available.

• Federal day care facilities will vary by location.

• Applications received become the property of the USDA Forest Service and will not be returned.

• It is the policy of the Government not to deny employment simply because an individual has been unemployed or has had financial difficulties that have arisen through no fault of the individual. See more information at: http://www.chcoc.gov/index.aspx

How to Apply

Please read the entire announcement and all the instructions before you begin. The following instructions outline our application process.

• You must complete this application process and submit all required documents electronically by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the closing date of this announcement.

• We are available to assist you during business hours (normally 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday). Applying online is highly encouraged. If applying online poses a hardship, please contact our office during business hours well before the closing date for an alternate method. All hardship application packages with supporting documents must be submitted no later than noon on the closing date of the announcement in order to be entered into the system prior to its closing.

• This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us if you require this for any part of the application and hiring process.
**Step 1**: Create a USAJOBS account (if you do not already have one) at www.usajobs.gov. It is recommended that as part of your profile you set up automatic email notification to be informed when the status of your application changes. If you choose not to set up this automatic notification, then you will have to log into your USAJOBS account to check on the status of your application.

**Step 2**: Create a Resume with USAJOBS or upload a Resume into your USAJOBS account. You may want to customize your resume to ensure it documents duties and accomplishments you have gained that are directly related to this position in order to verify that qualifications are met. In addition, your resume must support your responses to the online questionnaire (you may preview the online questionnaire by clicking on the link at the end of the How You Will Be Evaluated section of the job announcement).

**Step 3**: Click "Apply Online" and follow the prompts to complete the Occupational Questionnaire and attach any additional documents that may be required.

You can update your application or documents anytime while the announcement is open. Simply log into your USAJOBS account and click on "Application Status." Click on the position title, and then select "Update Application" to continue.

**How You Will Be Evaluated**

You will be evaluated in accordance with the category rating procedure as defined in the USDA Demonstration Project Plan. Applicants who meet the basic minimum qualification requirements established for the position will be placed in the Eligible category. Eligible applicants will be further evaluated against criteria for placement in the Quality category. This evaluation is based on the level of your experience, education, and/or training as determined by your responses to the Occupational Questionnaire. Applicants with veterans’ preference are listed ahead of applicants who do not have veterans’ preference within each category.

Clicking the link below will present a preview of the application form; i.e. the online questionnaire. The application form link below will only provide a preview and does not initiate the application process. To initiate the online application process, click the “Apply Online” button to the right.

To view the application form, visit: [https://fs.usda.ntis.gov/cp/?event=jobs.previewApplication&jobid=34F50CC1-9EA5-438A-9778-A5D900DF9E31](https://fs.usda.ntis.gov/cp/?event=jobs.previewApplication&jobid=34F50CC1-9EA5-438A-9778-A5D900DF9E31)

**Required Documents**

The following documents are required for your application to be complete. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, illegible fax transmissions, delays in mail service, your system failure or downtime, etc. Encrypted and digitally signed documents will not be accepted. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

- Resume must include: 1) personal information; 2) education; 3) work experience including work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment; and title, series and grade if applicable; 4) supervisor’s phone number, e-mail address for each work period listed, and whether or not we may contact them for reference checks; and 5) other qualifications.
• College Transcripts if education is required for meeting basic qualifications and/or you are substituting education for specialized experience and/or if you are using education to meet the criteria for the quality category. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application; however, if selected, an official college transcript will be required prior to entering on duty. Education must have been successfully completed and obtained from an accredited school, college, or university. Foreign education must be evaluated by an approved organization. For additional information, refer to the U.S. Department of Education web site at http://www.ed.gov. All transcripts must be in English or include English translation.

• Veterans, if claiming preference: DD-214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty showing dates of service and type of discharge. Disabled veterans must include VA letter & SF-15 if claiming 10 pt. preference. Current active duty members must submit certification that they are expected to be discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions no later than 120 days after date the certification is submitted.

You must submit the documents below if you are a current or former federal employee and claim any of the following:

• CTAP/ICTAP: Certification of Expected Separation, Reduction-In-Force Separation Notice, or Notice of Proposed Removal; AND most recent performance evaluation; AND SF-50 demonstrating your separation or the position you will be separated from.

• Worker’s Compensation Separation: Agency certification of inability to place employee AND Notification of Separation OR Separation SF-50.

• Disability Annuity Termination: Notification from OPM of disability annuity termination AND Separation SF-50 of the last position held. Military Reserve or National Guard Technician Special Disability Retirement Annuity under 5 U.S.C. 8337(h) or 8456: Certification of special disability retirement annuity from a military department or National Guard Bureau AND Separation SF-50 of the last position held.

NOTE: If a document is resubmitted, it replaces the previous submission, which means the previous document is no longer available to the Human Resources Office. If you are adding to, rather than replacing a previous submission, you must upload both the old document and the new document. Please verify that documents you are uploading from USAJOBS transfer into the Agency's staffing system as there is a limitation to the number of documents that can be transferred. However, once in the Agency's staffing system, you will have the opportunity to upload additional documents. Uploaded resumes must be less than 3MB and in one of the following document formats: GIF, JPG, JPEG, PNG, RTF, PDF, or Word (DOC or DOCX).