Fish Biologist

FOREST SERVICE

1 vacancy - Rochester, VT

Work Schedule is Full-Time - Permanent

Opened Wednesday 4/27/2016 (1 day(s) ago)

Closes Monday 5/2/2016 (4 day(s) away)

- Salary Range
  $48,968.00 to $59,246.00 / Per Year

- Series & Grade
  GS-0482-09/11

- Promotion Potential
  11

- Supervisory Status
  Yes

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

- Control Number
  437037900

- Job Announcement Number
  16-0920-244069DP-CJ

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.

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.

This position has a duty location of Rochester, Vermont, and is with the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest, Rochester Ranger District. For additional information about the duties of the position, please contact Christopher Mattrick phone: 802-767-4261 ext 513; email: cmattrick@fs.fed.us

This is a GS-0482-09/11 Fish Biologist position and performs duties such as assisting with the management of the fisheries program in the Forest, performing fish habitat management projects and studies, preparing reports, and educating the public.

If you have questions on how to apply please scroll to the bottom of the announcement for contact information.

**Duties**

Duties are at the full performance level.

Keeps abreast of ongoing fish habitat projects, population studies, and monitoring. Analyzes and interprets project and study data and results, and provides information for use in fish habitat management and project proposal reviews and decisions. Recognizes problems that may develop and recommends preventative or mitigative actions.

Develops detailed project documents as required. Prepares environmental assessments, biological evaluations and environmental impact statements. Prepares technical progress and final reports, presenting results of administrative studies, surveys. Conducts fishery monitoring program activities for assigned projects through evaluations and written reports as required.

Participates or leads budget development and management to support attainment of fisheries program objectives. Reports on program accomplishments for annual reports. Integrates program goals with other resource programs. May serve as Contracting Officer's Representative for routine fishery studies and monitoring contracts.

Promotes understanding and cooperation between the Forest Service, other Federal agencies, Tribal, and State wildlife agencies, and special interest groups with respect to the fisheries resource and other resource activities. Represents the Forest Service at meetings relating to fisheries management. Participates in management investigations and surveys necessary for protection, restoration and enhancement of fish habitat.

Participates with interdisciplinary teams in the formulation and evaluation of alternatives and in the development of final recommendations.

Leads the design of fish habitat and population monitoring studies and strategies to collect new data required for ensuring habitat and population maintenance. Keeps abreast of ongoing fish habitat projects, population studies, and monitoring.

**Travel Required**

- Occasional Travel
- Occasional travel for meetings and/or training may be required

**Relocation Authorized**

- Yes
- Entitlements for payment of basic moving expenses, as required and to the extent allowed by the Federal Travel Regulations (FTR) 302-3.101, are authorized for eligible applicants changing duty
station when the change meets the distance tests as provided in FTR 302-1.1 and 302-2.6. In addition, the following relocation benefits are available: house hunting trip, temporary quarters and the use of relocation services company. Other relocation benefits may be negotiated with selectee.

### Job Requirements

#### Key Requirements

- US Citizenship is required.
- Selective Service Registration is required for males born after 12/31/1959.

#### Qualifications

You must possess the Basic Requirements identified below to be considered for all positions at the GS-5 grade level and above. Transcripts must be provided with the application to validate that coursework requirements are met.

Degree: Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelors or higher degree that included a major field of study in biological science that included at least 6 semester hours in aquatic subjects such as limnology, ichthyology, fishery biology, aquatic botany, aquatic fauna, oceanography, fish culture, or related courses in the field of fishery biology; and at least 12 semester hours in the animal sciences in such subjects as general zoology, vertebrate zoology, comparative anatomy, physiology, entomology, parasitology, ecology, cellular biology, genetics, or research in these fields. (Excess course work in aquatic subjects may be used to meet this requirement when appropriate.)

OR

Combination of education and experience -- courses equivalent to a major in biological science (i.e., at least 30 semester hours), of which a minimum of 6 semester hours were in aquatic subjects and 12 semester hours were in the animal sciences, as shown above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

In addition to the basic requirements, the following additional education and/or experience are qualifying. Transcripts must be provided for qualifications based on education. Your application or resume must clearly show that you possess the specialized experience requirements.

Specialized experience is defined as experience that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled and has equipped you with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position.

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.

GS-9: One year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-7 grade level; masters or equivalent graduate degree or 2 full years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to such a degree or LL.B. or J.D., if related; or an appropriate combination of specialized experience and education (only graduate education in excess of 18 semester hours may be used to qualify applicants for this grade level). The education must have been obtained in an accredited college or university and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work.

#### Examples of specialized experience include one or more of the following:

- Served as an advanced trainee specializing in fish/aquatic biology and performed common qualitative and quantitative analyses of fisheries resources;
Conducted routine tests, prepared test samples, draft designs, or tentative professional opinions to assist in determining fisheries resource needs and remedies;

Or assisted in carrying out a range of analytical/scientific assignments in the fisheries biology profession that included researching and analyzing data, issues, and information that support aquatic project recommendations.

**GS-11:** 3 years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to a Ph.D. degree or Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree (coursework directly related to position being filled); one year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-9 level; or an appropriate combination of specialized experience and graduate level education (beyond what is required for a master's degree, i.e., more than 36 semester hours leading to a Ph.D.).

**Examples of specialized experience include one or more of the following:**

- Provided input in the fish/aquatic management program by gathering, compiling, and analyzing data to determine environmental conditions, characteristics, and values, and the interrelationship of fisheries resources with other resources;

- Analyzed data and recommended solutions to problems involving a limited section of fisheries resources issues, e.g., interpreted the effect and impact of changes on aquatic habitat as a result of specific resource activities;

- Or provided input in the preparation, maintenance, and revision of functional plans for specific areas of responsibility such as fisheries management, aquatic and riparian habitat, stream or lake management, etc., that involved interpretation of data obtained and synthesis into conclusions.

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

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

May be subject to satisfactory completion of one year probationary or trial period.

Subject to one-year supervisory/managerial probation period (unless prior service is creditable).

**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**

Other Information

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.

Bargaining Unit Status: This position is ineligible to be covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

Career Transition Assistance Plan (CTAP) or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP): If you are claiming CTAP or ICTAP eligibility, provide proof of eligibility. CTAP/ICTAP eligibles must meet the agency’s definition for a quality candidate as provided in the How You Will Be Evaluated section of this announcement to be considered. Information about CTAP/ICTAP eligibility is on OPM’s Career Transition Resources website at http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/

Forest Service daycare facilities are not available.

Direct Deposit – Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to a financial institution of your choice.

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.

This agency offers alternative and flexible work schedules.

Government housing is not available.

We may select from this announcement or any other source to fill one or more vacancies.

If you are selected for a position with further promotion potential, you will be placed under a career development plan, and may be non-competitively promoted if you successfully complete the requirements and if recommended by management. However, promotion is not guaranteed.

This position is eligible for telework.

How to Apply

Please view Tips for Applicants—a guide to the Forest Service application process

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; contact us if you are requesting this.
**Step 1:** Create a USAJOBS account (if you do not 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. 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. 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. Log into your USAJOBS account and click on "Application Status." Click on the position title, and then select "Update Application" to continue. NOTE: Verify that uploaded documents from USAJOBS transfer into the Agency's staffing system. Once in the Agency's staffing system you will have the opportunity to upload additional documents. Uploaded documents must be less than 3MB and in one of the following document formats: GIF, JPG, JPEG, PNG, RTF, PDF, or Word (DOC or DOCX).

**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=C7C08464-01A1-4AB6-9612-A5EE00C38156](https://fs.usda.ntis.gov/cp/?event=jobs.previewApplication&jobid=C7C08464-01A1-4AB6-9612-A5EE00C38156)

**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) supervisors 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.

• Workers 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).