Forester (Timber Management Assistant)

FOREST SERVICE

1 vacancy - Ozark, AR

Work Schedule is Full-Time - Permanent

Opened Friday 4/8/2016 (6 day(s) ago)
Closes Monday 4/18/2016 (4 day(s) away)

- **Salary Range**
  $48,968.00 to $77,019.00 / Per Year

- **Series & Grade**
  GS-0460-09/11

- **Promotion Potential**
  11

- **Supervisory Status**
  Yes

- **Who May Apply**
  Current permanent Federal employees with competitive status, reinstatement eligibles, persons with disabilities, VEOA/VRA eligibles, certain military spouses, 30% or more disabled veterans, former Peace Corps or VISTA volunteers, CTAP/ICTAP eligibles, Farm Service Agency permanent county employees and those eligible for other Special Hiring Authorities.

- **Control Number**
  435306300
Job Announcement Number

16-0810-238408G-AW

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 Forester (Timber Management Assistant) position is located on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Boston Mountain Ranger District in Ozark, Arkansas. The position is responsible for the preparation, implementation, and administration of the timber management program as the Timber Management Assistant and Silviculturist.

For additional information about the duties of this position, please contact William Dunk at 479-667-2191 or by email at wdunk@fs.fed.us.

Duties

Duties listed are at the full performance level:

Provides advice, technical support, and evaluation of proposed and ongoing timber sale programs to prevent loss of timber productivity and damage to the environment. Reviews and approves project plans for special administrative studies of silvicultural methods and techniques in planting, seeding, site preparation, timber stand improvement, and tree and shrub improvement projects.

Makes on-the-ground examinations and analyses of forest areas to determine which areas require short- or long-range cultural treatment in terms of the total ecosystem.

Plans, coordinates, and administers the technical phases of forest area control of animals, insects, or diseases affecting reforestation and regeneration programs.

Plans, coordinates, and evaluates the timber stand improvement program; prescribes cutting practices based on an examination of stand conditions and esthetic or other
resource requirements. Inspects all phases of reforestation and stand improvement projects; appraises the degree of conformance with policies, procedures, and silvicultural plans; and recommends corrective action as required.

Participates in preparation and review of environmental analysis reports and environmental impact statements.

Maintains liaison with employees of Federal and State governments, local officials, and private organizations or landowners who are affected by, or have a shared interest in, the Forest land management practices and problems in the forest area.

**Travel Required**

- Occasional Travel
- Travel may be required for training, meetings, or other mission related work.

**Relocation Authorized**

- Yes
- Entitlement for payment of basic moving expenses, as required 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.

**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 eligible 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 bachelor's or higher degree that included a major field of study in forestry; or a related subject-matter field that included a total of at least 30 semester hours in any combination of biological, physical, or mathematical sciences or engineering, of which at least 24 semester hours of course work were in forestry. The curriculum must have been sufficiently diversified to include courses in each of the following areas:

Management of Renewable Resources -- study of the science and art of managing renewable resources to attain desired results. Examples of creditable courses in this area include silviculture, forest management operations, timber management, wildland fire science or fire management, utilization of forest resources, forest regulation, recreational land management, watershed management, and wildlife or range habitat management.

Forest Biology -- study of the classification, distribution, characteristics, and identification of forest vegetation, and the interrelationships of living organisms to the forest environment. Examples of creditable courses in this area include dendrology, forest ecology, silvics, forest genetics, wood structure and properties, forest soils, forest entomology, and forest pathology.

Forest Resource Measurements and Inventory -- sampling, inventory, measurement, and analysis techniques as applied to a variety of forest resources. Examples of creditable courses include forest biometrics, forest mensuration, forest valuation, statistical analysis of forest resource data, renewable natural resources inventories and analysis, and photogrammetry or remote sensing.

OR

Combination of education and experience -- courses equivalent to a major in forestry, or at least 30 semester hours in any combination of biological, physical, or mathematical sciences or engineering, of which at least 24 semester hours were in forestry. The requirements for diversification of the 24 semester hours in forestry are the same 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; master's 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 are: Oversees cruising and marking of timber; reviews/appraises the timber resource; oversees timber sale site preparation; assist in review silviculture prescriptions to insure compatibility with timber management plans; preparation of timber sale contracts and contract packages; assist in development of timber management plans.

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 are: Performing vegetation management duties including timber management, harvesting, reforestation, timber stand improvement, and fuels management; assisting in analyzing technical issues and/or providing advice and assistance on forestry resource management policies and practices; and assisting in reviewing or developing standard plans for well-established programs or projects or recommending short-range plans for a component of a forestry resource management program.

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

TIME IN GRADE REQUIREMENT: If you are a current federal employee in the General Schedule (GS) pay plan and applying for a promotion opportunity, you must meet time-in-grade (TIG) requirements of 52 weeks of service at the next lower grade level in the normal line of progression for the position being filled. This requirement must be met by the closing date of this announcement. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

May be subject to satisfactory completion of one year probationary or trial period. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license as a condition of employment.

Security Clearance
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.

Career Transition Assistance Plan (CTAP) Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP): For information on how to apply as a CTAP or ICTAP eligible see [http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/](http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/). To be well-qualified and exercise selection priority for this vacancy, a surplus or displaced Federal employee must meet the basic eligibility requirements including all selective factors, and be rated and determined to be well qualified (or above) based on an evaluation of the competencies listed in the How You Will Be Evaluated section. CTAP/ICTAP applicants must receive a rating of at least 85 out of a possible 100 based on responses to the occupational questionnaire.
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.

Government housing is not available.

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.

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 based on your qualifications for this position as evidenced by the education, experience, and training you described in your application package, as well as the responses to the Occupational Questionnaire to determine the degree to which you possess the knowledge, skills, abilities and competencies listed below:
  - Knowledge of the principles, methods, and techniques of silviculture.
  - Ability to perform natural resource, public land, and timber management program analysis.
  - Knowledge of the methods, tools, and techniques used in timber cruising.
  - Ability to communicate effectively in writing.
  - Ability to communicate effectively other than in writing.
- We will review your application, including the online Occupational Questionnaire, to ensure you meet the job requirements and assess your ability to perform this
job. Before any certificate can be issued to the selecting official, the resume and supporting documents are reviewed by an HR Specialist to ensure that (a) minimum qualification requirements are met and (b) the resume supports the answers provided to the job-specific questions. Your answers will be verified against information provided in your online resume and application. Be sure that your resume clearly supports your responses to all the questions addressing experience and education relevant to this position.

- Applicants who meet the basic minimum qualification requirements and are determined to be among the best qualified candidates will be referred to the hiring manager for consideration. Non-Competitive candidates need to meet minimum qualification requirements to be referred.

**Note:** If, after reviewing your resume and / or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and or experience, your score can / will be lowered to more accurately reflect the submitted documentation. Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your rating. Deliberate attempts to falsify information may be grounds for not selecting you.

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=A2D939FB-E472-45E0-A200-A5DF00EFC3E0

**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 we may contact for reference checks; and 5) other qualifications.
• **College Transcripts** if education is required for meeting basic qualifications and/or used as a substitute for specialized experience. An unofficial copy is sufficient; however, if selected, an official 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 website at http://www.ed.gov. All transcripts must be in English or include English translation.