OUTREACH NOTICE
NORTHERN REGION
State & Private Forestry
Missoula, MT
"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

Student Trainee
GS-0499-5 Biological Science Technician

The USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, Forest Health Protection is currently seeking a candidate for a Student Trainee in a biological science technician position GS-0499-5 located in the Forest Service Regional Office, Missoula, MT. The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity. This is a Pathways Intern Indefinite position: Intern Indefinites are students hired into excepted service positions that do not have a “not to exceed” (NTE) date and their appointment is intended to last until the student completes their educational requirements. Upon completion, this position may be converted to a permanent position with a part-time appointment.

To express interest in this position, please complete the Outreach form and return it to Gregg DeNitto at gdenitto@fs.fed.us by the close of business on April 29, 2016. For more information contact Gregg DeNitto at (406) 329-3637 or gdenitto@fs.fed.us.

STUDENT TRAINEE POSITIONS:
Interns Program: The Internship Program is for current students. The Internship Program provides students in colleges, trade schools and other qualifying educational institutions with paid opportunities to work in agencies and explore Federal careers while completing their education.

Eligibility: Current students in an accredited college (including 4-year colleges/universities, community colleges, and junior colleges); professional, technical, vocational, and trade school; advanced degree programs; or other qualifying educational institution pursuing a qualifying degree or certificate. Selection will be partly based on the student’s discipline of study in a natural resource related field.

Program Completion and Conversion: Interns may be converted to a permanent position within 120 days of successful completion of the program.

To be eligible for conversion, Interns must:
• Complete at least 640 hours of work experience acquired through the Internship Program
• Complete their degree or certificate requirements
• Meet the qualification standards for the position to which the Intern will be converted
• Meet agency-specific requirements as specified in the Participant's Agreement
• Perform their job successfully.

The Position
The Missoula FHP field office provides services to all federal and Tribal lands in the Northern Region. This position works with the FHP staff responsible for the aerial detection survey program and is responsible for planning, coordinating, and conducting the annual FHP aerial detection survey for the Region. They also
provide support to the professional entomology and plant pathology staff of the Missoula Field Office. FHP is responsible for the detection, survey, evaluation, prevention and suppression of forest pests. Both field and laboratory technical duties are part of this position, as well as a number of administrative responsibilities. GIS and technology skills are required for this position. **This position requires flying in a small aircraft over mountainous terrain.** The Intern should not be susceptible to motion sickness and should not be color-blind.

**Major Duties for Target GS-7 Level**

Independently completes or supervises the following:

- Coordinates with federal and state land managing agencies to determine areas to be surveyed, selecting and applying appropriate survey methods and maps, identifying and mapping insect and disease occurrences from aircraft, and directing follow-up ground surveys as needed.
- Individually or as a crewmember, conducts insect and disease projects.
- Collects insect and disease samples and make determinations such as defoliation estimates, vegetation tallies, and species injured and insect and disease identification to taxonomic order and occasionally to family.
- Performs low-level flights in a small aircraft with minimal airsickness and be relatively comfortable with the work to obtain sufficient accuracy.
- Schedules, organizes, and conducts field and laboratory projects for detecting, identifying and evaluating insect pests.
- Coordinates with GIS coordinator and other survey participants to ensure accurate computation of aerial survey data and maps.

**Physical Requirements**

The work varies from office work usually at a computer to field work requiring strenuous physical exertion for extended periods including walking on uneven, steep terrain in winter, spring, and summer conditions. This position requires the ability to fly as an observer in fixed and rotary wing aircraft at low levels over extended periods of time. **Normal color and stereovision are required** for accurate recognition of injured and discolored vegetation.

**How to Respond**

If you are interested in this position please fill out the response form included in this outreach and email to gdenitto@fs.fed.us no later than close of business April 29, 2016.

This position will be hired through a Single Vacancy Announcement number at the [USAJobs website](https://www.usajobs.gov). Applicants who respond to this outreach will be notified when the position is advertised.

**Location:**
The position is located at the Forest Service Regional Office, Missoula, MT.

**Community Information:**

Missoula, Montana draws people from diverse backgrounds. Missoula is nestled in the Rocky Mountains of western Montana. This scenic city is bustling with activity, as western Montana's regional source for business, culture, medical services, retail, and entertainment. There are endless opportunities for fishing, thousands of miles of trails, and plenty of guides and shops to clue you in on the hot spots. With an area population of more than 70,000, Missoula has what you'd expect to find in a big city--a wide range of hotels, restaurants, shops and galleries, several museums, a ballet company, live theater and a symphony. It’s also home to The
University of Montana, laid-back coffee houses, historic bars and cozy bookstores. As a natural outdoor playground it's unparalleled, and yet Missoula is one of the most dynamic cultural centers in the Northwest. Missoula is a major retail and medical hub in western Montana and claims one of the nation's best doctor to patient ratios. A wide variety of specialty, discount, and budget shopping centers make Missoula the retail hub for an estimated 200-mile radius. The Missoula school system is considered excellent with three public and two private high schools, numerous elementary schools, a College of Technology and the University of Montana.

Missoula serves a trade area in excess of 300,000 and therefore, has more amenities and services than most cities of its size. The foundations of Missoula's economic base are wood and paper products, Federal Government, motor carriers and the University. There is a great diversity of neighborhoods and residential settings within the community and surrounding area ranging from urban to very rural.

There are an abundance of recreation facilities and opportunities located in and around the Missoula area. These include: golf courses, parks, tennis courts, swimming pools, health clubs, racquetball courts, YMCA, softball diamonds, hiking trails, ice skating rink. There are many rivers in the area for rafting, fishing and swimming. Snowbowl ski area is less than an hour's drive from town and within a two-hour drive are Discovery, Lost Trail and Lookout Pass. Also close to Missoula are numerous cross country ski trails and snowmobile trails.

Missoula has two large hospitals, which provide a full array of inpatient and outpatient services. Missoula has many other health care practitioners.

Missoula residents enjoy all four seasons of the year. The elevation is 3,205 feet, with an average annual temperature of 45 F, a January daily minimum of 15.5 F and July daily maximum of 83.4 F. The growing season averages 137 days, an average mean rainfall of 13.5 inches, and an average mean snowfall of 42.5 inches.

The Northern Rockies Learning Center (NRLC) is a Forest Service-sponsored childcare facility in Missoula, MT that was established to aid in the recruitment and retention of diverse, qualified employees. The Center provides high quality childcare for infants thru pre-K children, with an emphasis on experiential learning. Located on the Missoula Fire, Science, and Technology campus, NRLC borders open space where children can explore the outdoors daily. Priority enrollment is given to Federal employees, and prices are competitive with other high quality childcare facilities in Missoula. The Center offers options for extended hours care during fire season, as well as drop-in services for Federal employees who need to be in Missoula short-term for trainings or meetings. To learn more, please visit the Northern Rockies Learning Center website at: Link to Northern Rockies Learning Center website

If you would like additional information about the city of Missoula, you can contact the Missoula Chamber of Commerce at (406) 543-6623. Extensive additional information on the Missoula area can be found on the internet at Link to City of Missoula website.

GOVERNMENT HOUSING IS NOT AVAILABLE. Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!

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