Outreach and Vacancy Announcement

Forestry Technician (Timber Sale Prep) GS-0462-4/5/6
Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger District
Region 8, Cherokee National Forest
Benton, Tennessee

The Cherokee National Forest, USDA Forest Service, Region 8, will soon be filling a GS-0462-4/5/6 Forestry Technician (Timber Sale Prep) position for the Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger District. The duty station for this position will be located in Benton, TN.

ABOUT THE POSITION

The person selected will perform presale, sale administration and similar duties as part of the timber management program for the South Zone of Cherokee National Forest. Currently the forest has a 16,000 CCF program with about 10,500 CCF occurring on the South Zone.

The incumbent will conduct timber cruises and surveys within varying stand conditions to locate and estimate the quality of timber on a given area. Under the supervision of a professional forester and lead technician, the incumbent will select and mark trees to be harvested or left uncut. This will include measuring volume and defects of timber on the ground using maps and written cruise plans provided by an advanced cruiser. This position will also summarize cruising and marking data, occasionally use GPS to record boundary locations, and prepare reports and topographic maps.

As assigned, the incumbent will assist in other aspects of natural resource management. This will include inspection of timber and service contracts. The position will also perform other resource or fire duties as qualified and assigned.
The Forest and Districts

Tennessee’s only National Forest, the Cherokee covers approximately 635,000 acres, stretching from Georgia north to Virginia along the southern Appalachian Mountains. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park divides the forest with two ranger districts to the north and two to the south. The Ocoee/Hiwassee and the Tellico Districts, making up the South Zone of the Forest, are the two southern most ranger districts and administers approximately 300,000 acres in three counties – Polk, McMinn, and Monroe.

The management structure and activities of the South Zone are shared between both districts. All program areas are zoned, except for the Recreation programs. Based on our current workforce, the South Zone has been designed to efficiently divide the duties of the districts’ between planning and implementation. The Tellico District has assumed the planning side of the zone, while the Ocoee/Hiwassee District is charged with implementation of all zoned program activities.

Duty Station and Area Communities

Benton, Tennessee is county seat of Polk County. It is tucked into the Appalachian Mountains in the southeastern corner of Tennessee. It is blessed with 3 beautiful and distinctly different rivers. The Hiwassee, on the northern border, is one of the south’s premier trout fisheries, the Conasauga, on the southern border, is home to 60+ species of fish and rivals an ocean reef for snorkeling opportunities. Located in the center of the county is the Ocoee River, a world class rafting/kayaking venue which hosted the 1996 Olympic Canoe/Kayak competition. This area also boasts 50 plus miles of World Class mountain bike trails and many miles of hiking trails which often lead to waterfall or offer a glimpse of the abundant wildflowers in spring or fall colors that rival New England. Summers are temperate, and winters are generally mild with very small snow fall amounts. Winter sports are only a few hours away in nearby Gatlinburg, gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains.

Pick your lifestyle. The area has countless opportunities and location for housing. Because of this, housing costs can range from cheap to fairly expensive. Average housing in the area for a 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is around $150,000 with rentals for around $800-1,000/month.

Community Colleges and four year programs are found throughout the area. Depending on where you choose to live, a community college like Cleveland State, or SEC powerhouse like University of Tennessee Knoxville, can be close by.

Tennessee is a great state to live in with no state income tax, low cost of living, and a lot of things to see and do. Eastern Tennessee has four seasons; the climate is moderate with hot summers and cool winters.

Shopping is great, with small town antiques to big town malls all within an easy drive. Links to additional information about the Ocoee Region and surrounding area:
http://www.ocoecountry.com/index.cfm
http://www.clevelandchamber.com/
http://tennesseeoverhill.com/
Primary Contact: Michael S. Keller, TMA, Ocoee Ranger District
Phone Number: (423) 338-3302
E-mail address: mskeller@fs.fed.us

If you are interested in this opportunity, please fill out the attached Outreach Notice Form and send to mawright@fs.fed.us by May 15 2016.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you respond to this Outreach Notice with a valid email address, you will be notified via email when the vacancy announcement is available on USAJobs.

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REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: The USDA Forest Service provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please contact the point of contact listed above. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.
OUTREACH NOTICE FORM
USDA Forest Service
Cherokee National Forest
Benton, TN
Forestry Technician (Timber Sale Prep)
GS-0462-4/5/6

If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete this form and send it by e-mail to mskeller@fs.fed.us. (Please include “GS-0462-4/5/6, Forestry Technician (Timber Sale Prep) Outreach” in the subject line of your message.) Please respond no later than May, 15 2016. The PERMANENT position will be advertised on the OPM USA Jobs website www.usajobs.opm.gov soon.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: ____________________________ Date: __________________________
Address: __________________________ Phone: __________________________
Email: ____________________________

Are you currently a federal employee?: YES ☐ NO ☐

Current title/series/grade/location/classification:
(e.g., Career, Career-Conditional, Excepted-ANILCA, Excepted VRA, etc.)

Briefly describe why you will be a quality candidate for this position:

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