Biological Science Technician

Interior, US Fish & Wildlife Agency

68 vacancies in the following locations:
See below.

Work Schedule is Full Time – TEMPORARY SEASONAL

For Non-Competitive Consideration, Submit Application Materials No Later Than 1/2/2018

Series & Grade
GS-0404-4/5

Salary
$29,356 to $46,261 per year

Desired Start Date
3/4/18 - 6/3/18

Supervisory Status
No

USFWS Internal Reference Number
RFS-18-001-009

Who May Apply
• Schedule A (persons with disabilities),
• Veterans special hiring authorities including VRA or 30% or more Disabled Veteran
• AmeriCorps VISTAs and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) who completed service in the past calendar year or have an extension based on qualifying events
• Direct Hire Authority
• Certain Military Spouses

Job Overview

Summary
You too can make a difference in our world. The work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is meaningful and varied. Want to know more about what it is like to work for us? Watch these short podcasts entitled Meet Your New Boss and Diversity is our Strength.

The incumbent of this position assists professional biologists in completing all phases of a wildlife biological study or project of significant scope and duration including: project planning, logistical arrangements, field work, summarization and analysis of data, and completion of reports or other documents related to the project. Typical, but not all inclusive duties of the position are detailed below.

Who May Apply
At this time, only individuals with non-competitive hiring authorities may apply. Non-competitive authorities include individuals with qualifying conditions and documentation from the following:

• Schedule A (persons with disabilities),
• Veterans special hiring authorities including VRA or 30% or more Disabled Veteran
• AmeriCorps VISTAs who completed service in the past calendar year or have an extension based on qualifying events, or
• Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) who completed service in the past calendar year or have an extension based on qualifying events.
• Direct Hire Authority
• Certain Military Spouses

The employee in this position serves as a full-time, temporary Biological Science Technician for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6 in one of the following locations:
• Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) Office, Hartford, KS
• Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) Office, Benton Lake NWR Great Falls, MT
• Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) Office, Bismarck, ND (10 positions)
• Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) Office, Fergus Falls, MN (3 positions)
• Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge, Pleasanton, KS
• Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Ellsworth, NE (2 positions)
• Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District, Funk, NE
• Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, NE
• Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, NE (2 positions)
• Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Martin, SD (2 positions)
• Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Andes, SD (2 positions)
• Madison Wetland Management District, Madison, SD (2 positions)
• Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Aberdeen, SD (2 positions)
• Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Waubay, SD (4 positions)
• Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, Walden, CO
• Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Commerce City, CO (2 positions)
• Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge/Wetland Management District, Great Falls, MT
• Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Medicine Lake, MT (2 positions)
• Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Lima, MT
• Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge/Wetland Management District, Pingree, ND (2 positions)
• Audubon National Wildlife Refuge/Wetland Management District, Coleharbor, ND (8 positions)
• Crosby Wetland Management District, Crosby, ND
• Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, Kenmare, ND (2 positions)
• Devils Lake National Wildlife Refuge/Wetland Management District, Devils Lake, ND (2 positions)
• J Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge, Upham, ND (3 positions)
• Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge, Kenmare, ND (2 positions)
• Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge, Berthold, ND
• Valley City Wetland Management District, Valley City, ND
• National Bison Range, Moiese, MT
• Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Moffit, ND
• Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge, Cayuga, ND
• Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, Dugway, UT
• National Elk Refuge, Jackson, WY
Responsibilities
The employee assists in the planning and implementation of wildlife censuses and surveys and recommends wildlife management practices. Assists in planning multifaceted wildlife studies by contributing ideas, determining research methods, establishing practical procedures for accomplishing and reporting the work and determining other needs, such as costs, equipment and personnel.

- Monitors and assists in control of wildlife, plant disease outbreaks, pest plant control, mowing/seeding activities and vegetation removal.
- Captures, applies visual and radio tags, and gathers physiological and spatial data on wildlife.
- Monitors elements of the physical environment, such as temperature, precipitation, stream flow, snow depth, wind speed, and humidity.
- Develops databases and analyzes data using standard statistical methods and procedures in preparation of wildlife reports. Enters and retrieves data from the Geographic Information System and/or other information management systems. Develops graphs, charts and illustrations for reports and technical publications using computer software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint and Harvard graphics.
- Operates farm tractors, light trucks, vehicles, small water craft and various other equipment such as generators, radios, radio tracking equipment, water monitoring equipment, global positioning systems, and cameras.
- Provides work direction and guidance to biological technicians and volunteers and YCC enrollees, including safe handling of tools and operation of motorized vehicles and water craft.
- Attends meetings with landowners, sports groups and local units of government.
- Position may include the additional collateral duty or duties:
  - Public use/environmental education.
  - Assists with sending and/or preparing environmental educational posters, brochures material of limited difficulty.
  - Assists in preparing drafts of news releases and gives informational talks to individuals, local organization, and schools.
  - Collects physiological and demographic data on harvested game at hunter check stations.
  - Prescribed Fire/Wildland fire suppression as a collateral duty.
  - Participates in habitat management by assisting with controlled burning.
  - Participates in wildland firefighting.

How To Apply
Please send resume and supporting qualification documentation for one of the above hiring authorities to fw6_dcr@fws.gov or fax to 303-236-3816 (Attn: Rachel McCracken) as soon as possible, but no later than January 2, 2018. Resumes and supporting documentation will be reviewed against position qualifications and, if deemed qualified, forwarded to the selecting official for consideration.
Requirements

Conditions of Employment
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or National
- Males born after 12-31-59 must be registered for Selective Service
- Resume and supporting documents (See How To Apply)
- Suitability for employment, as determined by background investigation
- Required to wear U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service uniform
- Must possess a valid State driver's license.
- First Aid training

Qualifications

Specialized Experience (for positions at GS-4 and above): Experience must have been related to the work of the position for which application is made. The specialized experience required for some positions in this series is normally work performed in a controlled environment. Examples of qualifying specialized experience include:

- Research activity or control program work.
- Nursery work that required the growing and maintenance of plants in a controlled environment.
- Work comparable to that with a large dairy farm where production records, animal environment, and sanitary conditions were kept in accordance with modern dairy practice.

Farming experience that was not performed in a controlled environment, or experience as a laborer who was not responsible for planning and scheduling his/her own work, but only performed assigned tasks, would not qualify as specialized experience. OR

Education and Training

For GS-4: Successful completion of 2 years of study that included at least 12 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least 6 semester hours of courses must be directly related to the position to be filled.

For GS-5: Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree with major study or at least 24 semester hours in any combination of courses such as those shown above for GS-4. At least 6 semester hours of courses must have been directly related to the position to be filled. The successful completion of a full course of study of at least 12 months in a school for clinical laboratory technicians may be substituted for the 1 year of specialized experience required at the GS-5 level for positions involving microbiology and biochemistry technician work.

Physical Demands
Field work requires strenuous activity for significant periods of time, often walking over rough terrain and in muddy conditions; on rough or uneven surfaces; wading through vegetation choked marshes, lifting and carrying heavy objects, and in many instances during difficult weather conditions. Collection
of bird survey data requires good vision and field work results in exposure to such things as: poison ivy insects, sun, wind, temperature variation and many varieties of pollen. Data interpretation and processing require extensive time at a computer terminal.

Seasonal field studies involve considerable physical demands, such as frequent, extensive travel on foot; bending; crouching; and climbing; exertion from lifting and carrying equipment; and energy drain from cold, wet and windy weather. The incumbent must be in good physical condition and anticipate the demands of each field trip. Occasionally lifts containers weighing up to 35 pounds.

**How You Will Be Evaluated**

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

In addition to the Specialized Experience and any applicable Basic Education requirements, the following competencies are required:

- Technical knowledge of principles, practices, and terminology related to wildlife biology and wildlife management and a familiarity with related disciplines.
- Knowledge of FWS laws and regulations, policies pertaining to the protection of wildlife and their habitat.
- Ability to use computer technology to maintain and retrieve information from automated data systems, develop spreadsheets, and use word processing and statistical software programs in order to develop reports.
- Familiarity with geographic information system, aerial photography and survey techniques, and global positioning systems.
- Ability to communicate orally in order to meet and deal effectively with people of different backgrounds including representatives of state, Federal, and private agencies and organizations.
- Ability to communicate in writing in order to assist in the preparation of wildlife management plans.
- Ability to provide work direction and guidance to biological technicians, volunteers, and YCC enrollees.
- Ability to operate small water craft, cars, trucks and farm tractors.
- Ability to use various specialized tools and equipment required to conduct wildlife studies/surveys.
- Ability to capture, handle, and tag or collar various wildlife.
- Knowledge of Service safety guidelines.
  - Prescribed fire/wildland firefighting as a collateral duty
  - Sufficient knowledge of fire behaviors, procedures, policies, guidelines, in order to serve as a member of a prescribed burn crew or to direct initial attack forces for the purpose of suppressing wild fires.
  - Ability to use specialized tools and equipment required to perform firefighting duties.
- Ability to plan and carry out assigned tasks using initiative in solving problems and deviations in work assignments in accordance with instructions, policies, and accepted practices.

**Required Documents**

The following required documentation must be submitted for non-competitive consideration:
• Resume tailored to the position. List all relevant experience (experience gained through jobs, school, volunteering, etc.).
• College Transcripts if qualifying based on education OR if there is a Basic Education Requirement for this position
• Schedule A Letter (persons with disabilities)
• DD Form 214 (Veterans)
• Veterans Preference Documents (Veterans)
• Certifying document of non-competitive eligibility status (RPCV and AmeriCorps VISTA alumni)

Contact

Rachel F. McCracken
Workforce Recruiter
Mountain-Prairie Region (Region 6)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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