



OUTREACH NOTICE

NORTHERN REGION

State & Private Forestry

Missoula, MT

"Caring for the Land and Serving People"



GS-0434-9/11/12 Plant Pathologist

The **USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, Forest Health Protection (FHP)** is conducting outreach in anticipation of filling a permanent Plant Pathologist position in Missoula, MT in the near-future. The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to inform prospective applicants of employment opportunities.

This position is located in the Forest Service Regional Office, Missoula, MT. To express interest in this position, please complete the Outreach form and return by the close of business on **April 29th, 2022**. For more information contact Joel Egan at (406) 329-3278 or jegan@fs.fed.us.

PLEASE NOTE: The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish the appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the advertisement (e.g., target grade and service-wide, region-wide government-wide, or DEMO). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination. The grade levels identified in this outreach may not be those that are eventually advertised for this position.

The Position

The Missoula FHP field office provides services to all federal and Tribal lands in the Northern Region. This position serves as a plant pathologist, providing technical assistance and support to land managers on the identification, roles and management of forest diseases. The position is part of the Regional State & Private Forestry staff directly supervised by the FHP Missoula Field Office Group Leader. The incumbent works closely with entomologists, plant pathologists, silviculturists, and other resource specialists. This position requires extensive overnight travel and work in field locations. This position is permanent full-time.

Major Duties for Target GS-12 Level:

- Coordinates and implements all aspects of a complex major forest pathogen detection, evaluation, prevention, and control program for such diseases as dwarf mistletoe, root disease, and white pine blister rust.
- Exercises scientific judgment to conceive and conduct special evaluations, often collaborating with research, to gain additional specific knowledge concerning disease biology, ecological relationships, parasitic effects, survey methodology, or new control techniques. Implements technology transfer plans in order to make information available to specialists and resource managers.
- Prepares plans designed to meet technical objectives and collects field data. Processes and analyzes data, consults with other professionals, evaluates the results, and makes recommendations. Prepares technical reports and manuscripts.
- Provides site-specific, technical assistance concerning forest diseases to land managers, and documents this assistance in written guidelines which are incorporated into various resource project plans. Develops these management guidelines by identifying significant pathogens, determining the present amount of damage caused by the organisms, and exercising judgment in evaluating the actual or

potential seriousness of the infestation. Where reduction of pathogen effects is desirable, develops current, effective, environmentally safe, and economically sound disease management alternatives which are consistent with specific land management objectives.

- Organizes, plans, and conducts forest pathology related training programs, presentations, or seminars, for various Federal, State, and private individuals, which are tailored to the specific needs and objectives of the requesting unit and involve summarization and presentation of complex, scientific forest pathology subject matter, or new forest disease research developments in a concise, understandable manner.

Specialized Experience

Candidate must meet OPM Qualification Standard educational requirements (listed below) and have one year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the next lower grade level to be eligible for Temporary Promotion to a GS-0434 09 or 11 or 12 position.

Basic Qualification Requirements

Degree: plant pathology; or a related scientific discipline that included at least 20 semester hours in basic botany or plant science, and 10 semester hours in plant pathology.

[OPM Qualification Standards](#)

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 all seasons.

How to Respond

If you are interested in this position **please fill out the response form** included in this outreach and email to jegan@fs.fed.us no later than close of business **April 29th, 2022**.

This position will be hired through a Single Vacancy Announcement number at www.usajobs.gov. Applicants who respond to this outreach will be notified when the position is advertised. The vacancy may not be advertised for several months.

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 around 74,000, 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: public 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 to offer.

Missoula residents enjoy all four seasons of the year. The elevation is 3,205, with an average annual temperature of 45 F, with 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: <http://northernrockieslearningcenter.com/>

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 <http://www.missoula.com>.

GOVERNMENT HOUSING IS NOT AVAILABLE. RELOCATION EXPENSES MAY BE AUTHORIZED.

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

Revised 6/8/2005

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

NORTHERN REGION

OUTREACH NOTICE

POSITION TITLE: Plant Pathologist

UNIT: Forest Health Protection, Missoula, MT

NAME:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
MAILING ADDRESS:	
STREET ADDRESS:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:	
TELEPHONE:	

Are you currently a Federal Employee? Yes No

If you are a Federal Employee, please fill in below:

Agency:	<input type="checkbox"/> USFS	<input type="checkbox"/> BLM	<input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Type of Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/> Term	<input type="checkbox"/> VRA	<input type="checkbox"/> PWD	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Current FS Region:						
Forest:						
District:						
Current Series:						
Current Grade:						
Current Position Title:						

If you are not currently a permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities?

<p>Person with Disabilities (A non-competitive hiring authority for hiring persons with physical or mental disabilities certified by the Veterans Administration or a State Rehabilitation Agency as eligible. Initial appointment is into an excepted-service term or temporary position. Upon successful completion of a 2 year trainee period, non-competitive conversion to a career or career-conditional permanent appointment is possible. (Schedule A Authority)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Veterans Recruitment Act (A non-competitive authority for hiring disabled veterans, veterans who served in a declared war, or in a campaign for which a campaign badge has been authorized, or awarded a Armed Forces Service Medal, and separated from active duty in the past 3 yrs. Initial appointment (up to the GS-11 level) is to a VRA excepted-service appointment with the possibility of non-competitive conversion to a career permanent position after a 2 year period.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Disabled Veterans W/30% Compensable Disability (A non-competitive authority for hiring (1) disabled veterans who were retired from active military service with a 30% or more disability rating or (2) disabled veterans rated by the Veterans Affairs as having a compensable service-connected disability of 30% or more. Initial appointments are time-limited, lasting more than 60 days (there is no grade restriction). However, the appointee can be non-competitively converted to permanent status at any time during the time-limited appointment.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 (Allows eligible veterans to apply for merit promotion vacancies otherwise not open to external candidates without career status. Veterans are not accorded preference as a factor; if selected the VEOA eligible is placed in a career or career-conditional appointment.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Former Peace Corps Volunteer (A non-competitive authority for hiring former Peace Corp volunteers who have satisfactorily completed 3 years of continuous service into career or career-conditional permanent positions. Former volunteers are eligible up to 3 years after their separation from the Peace Corp.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Pathways Recent Graduate Program (A competitive authority for hiring recent graduates from qualifying educational institutions. To be eligible, applicants must apply within two years of degree or certificate completion (except for veterans precluded from doing so due to their military service obligation, who have up to six years after degree completion to apply).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Other (Identify)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Provide a brief summary (1-3 sentences) of overall qualifications for this position:

Provide a brief summary (1-3 sentences) of your qualifications related specifically to identification and management of plant pathogens in a forested environment:

Return your completed Outreach Notice form via email to Joel Egan

Email:	jegan@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Plant Pathologist Outreach Response

Respondents to this outreach will be informed by email when the vacancy is announced on the [USAJobs website](#).