

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OUTREACH NOTICE</b>  <b>UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST</b>  HEPPNER RANGER DISTRICT</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Caring for the Land and Serving People"</i></p> 
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**Zone Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-09/11**  
**Permanent Position**  
**Duty Station: Heppner, OR**

The Umatilla National Forest is seeking to fill a permanent GS-0486-09/11 wildlife biologist position for the South Zone. The official duty station is the Heppner Ranger District in Heppner, Oregon. This outreach notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of this exciting and rewarding career opportunity. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Brandon Houck ([brandon.j.houck@usda.gov](mailto:brandon.j.houck@usda.gov)). *This job will be advertised in USA Jobs next week (week of 8/24/20) and this outreach notice will be updated in the Outreach Database with the vacancy announcement number and link as soon as it is available.*

**THE POSITION**

**DUTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS POSITION:**

- Oversees the South Zone wildlife program.
- Plans work to be accomplished, sets and adjusts short-term priorities and prepares schedules for completion of work.
- Participates on interdisciplinary teams for evaluating the impact of Forest Service or non-Forest Service activities on National Forest lands.
- Prepares biological evaluations for threatened, endangered and sensitive species.
- Coordinates wildlife management with other resource uses including timber, range, recreation, fire/fuels.
- Provides input for wildlife considerations during project development and recommends project design criteria.
- Reviews project proposals and plans for technical soundness and adequacy in meeting overall wildlife management objectives.
- Inspects projects during implementation for compliance with NEPA decisions and Forest Plan.
- Provides leadership in inventories and evaluation of habitat conditions and needs for wildlife.
- Coordinates with agency partners and cooperators including Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and non-governmental wildlife conservation organizations.

- Develops supplemental funding for wildlife projects through grant writing and partnerships.

For additional information, please contact: Brandon Houck ([brandon.j.houck@usda.gov](mailto:brandon.j.houck@usda.gov)) or (541) 303-3977.

## DUTY STATION:

The duty station is Heppner, Oregon. This is a zoned position with work on the Heppner and North Fork John Day Ranger Districts.

## THE UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST

The Umatilla National Forest consists of 1.4 million acres across four Ranger Districts in the beautiful Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. Pendleton, Oregon houses the Umatilla National Forest Supervisor's Office. Umatilla is taken from the Indian word meaning "water rippling over sand." The Forest has mountainous terrain and valleys separated by narrow ridges or plateaus. The landscape also includes heavily timbered slopes, grassland ridges and benches, and bold basalt outcroppings. Elevations range from 1,600 to 8,000 feet above sea level. The habitat provided by the Forest supports one of the largest herds of Rocky Mountain elk found on any national forest in the nation.

The Forest contains a variety of conifer and hardwood tree species. Extensive rangeland is also allotted for cattle and sheep grazing. Surrounding lowlands are dominated by agricultural uses such as dry-land grains, peas and cattle.

Hunting and fishing make up nearly 50 percent of the recreation use on the Umatilla. Camping, picnicking, boating, hiking and riding horseback are also popular. The Forest has a large concentration of Rocky Mountain Elk. Mule deer and whitetail deer are also abundant. Downhill ski areas and numerous cross-country skiing trails and snowmobiling provide winter recreational opportunities. Three designated wilderness areas lie within the forest boundaries.

## HEPPNER RANGER DISTRICT

The Heppner Ranger District encompasses approximately 210,000 acres. On its southern slopes and lower elevations, the forest is predominately ponderosa pine, while northern slopes and higher elevations consist of mixed conifer stands. Elk, wild turkeys, mule deer, mountain lions, black bears and a variety of non-game wildlife and birds are found on the District.

Recreation use is heaviest during hunting season which begins in mid-August with archery season and extends through cow elk season which ends after Thanksgiving. The District recreational facilities include four campgrounds, two cabin rentals, numerous trails, and abundant dispersed campsites.

The District has active programs associated with dryland forest ecosystems, including natural fuels reduction, vegetation management; and watershed, range, and wildlife habitat restoration. District programs include: an active fuels management program; timber harvest in the range of 5-15 million board feet; approved Access and Travel Management System; riparian, aspen and watershed restoration work; work with T&E species, specifically the mid-Columbia steelhead; and

administration of 12 range allotments. Heppner's district workforce consists of 37 permanent employees and 25 seasonal employees.

## THE TOWN of HEPPNER:

Heppner, the Morrow County seat, is a small community of approximately 1,200 people. Situated in the rolling foothills of the Blue Mountains, Heppner is approximately 45 miles south of Hermiston (population 14,000), 65 miles southwest of Pendleton (population 15,000) and 78 miles from the Tri-Cities in Washington (population 285,000). There is an elementary school, a junior/senior high school and several daycare centers. The community actively supports many extracurricular opportunities for youth, including active 4-H, FFA, church and youth sports programs. Housing selection is affordable but can be limited. Rentals are also available.

Local services include a trauma level IV rated hospital, a primary care medical clinic and a long-term care unit. There are seven churches, a library, banking, pharmacy, grocery store, farm and ranch store, lumberyard and other locally owned businesses. Agriculture is the area's primary industry. County services have offices in Heppner. Other amenities in Heppner include: golf course, swimming pool, soccer field, basketball and tennis courts, softball fields, a fit park and the 125-acre Willow Creek Reservoir. Approximately 40 miles south on the District is Bull Prairie Reservoir and the Morrow County OHV Park. Snowmobiling is popular in winter and there is a local Nordic club which uses the District for its cross-country skiing activities. Hunting and fishing opportunities are plentiful.

**You may visit <http://www.heppner.net/> for more information on the local area.**

## NORTH FORK JOHN DAY RANGER DISTRICT

The North Fork John Day Ranger District is located in Ukiah, Oregon and encompasses 465,000 acres. Plant communities range from juniper/sage/bunch grass at the 2,600 feet elevation in the Potamus Creek area to subalpine fir/whitebark pine habitats at the 8,000 feet elevation near Vinegar Hill in the Scenic Area. There are about 8,000 elk that summer and winter, in part, on the District along with mule deer, black bear, cougar and a variety of non-game wildlife and birds, including wintering bald eagles. Many district streams contain habitat for federally listed Mid-Columbia bull trout Mid-Columbia steelhead trout, spring and fall salmon.

A significant portion of the District (107,000 acres) was designated in 1984 as the North Fork John Day Wilderness. This wilderness was designated primarily to protect key watershed areas in the North Fork John Day River drainage system and to protect anadromous fish habitat in this drainage basin. The John Day River supports the only all-native Chinook salmon population in the Columbia Basin.

Recreation use on the District is heaviest during hunting season which begins in mid-August with archery season and extends through cow elk season which ends after Thanksgiving. Camping has always been popular in the area. There are 15 developed campgrounds and abundant dispersed camping opportunities. Anglers enjoy fishing in numerous locations such as Olive Lake and the North Fork John Day River.

For more information about this position please contact Heppner District Ranger Brandon Houck at [brandon.j.houck@usda.gov](mailto:brandon.j.houck@usda.gov)