

UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
Colorado Wildlife Services
Job Announcement
(An Equal Opportunity Employer)

POSITION TITLE, SERIES, GRADE: Biological Science Technician (Wildlife), GS-404-6 Position.
This announcement may be used to fill multiple vacancies.

AGENCY: USDA/APHIS/WILDLIFE SERVICES

SALARY: \$17.68 - \$22.99/hr. **PROMOTION POTENTIAL:** None

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: Full Time, 4 year term, cooperatively funded excepted service position.

DUTY STATION: Colorado Springs, Colorado. No relocation expenses will be paid.

CLOSING DATE: March 31, 2017

START DATE: April 17, 2017

NOTE: Applicant for this position will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use prior to appointment. Incumbents of the position will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use on an ongoing basis after appointment, as directed.

WORK SCHEDULE: Monday – Friday with occasional weekends, early mornings, and evenings with occasional night work.

TRAVEL: Position requires moderate amount of overnight travel averaging 3-6 nights per month.

DUTIES:

Serves as a member of the WS workforce engaged in wildlife damage management operations at several airports within the Southern Colorado District. Effective communication and leadership skills and ability to work with the public, rural residents, and other agency personnel are essential. Incumbent will be required to have training in and around airport environments, be familiar with and know how to use computers, pesticides, traps, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), firearms and related equipment utilized in wildlife damage management operations. Must be able to correctly identify current, and to forecast future damage problems and relate them to the responsible depredated species and determine/select the most effective means of damage control or prevention. When using pesticide materials, must maintain records pursuant to the state pesticide statutes and regulations and Environmental Protection Agency use restrictions. Must be able to pass certified pesticide applicator examination within 3 months after appointment. Incumbent prepares and submits routine and special reports regarding daily, weekly or monthly activities, observations, and events. Incumbent must demonstrate a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices, and other equipment. Incumbent must have a valid State Motor Vehicle Operator's License. Operation of Government-owned or leased vehicles is required. The incumbent will be required to work in office and in outdoor conditions. Temperature, weather and noise extremes will be encountered in the performance of the outdoor work, which is often performed in remote and primitive areas. The terrain may be uneven or rocky. There may be exposure to extremes of weather and temperature. The incumbent is expected to

conduct duties in a safe and orderly manner, so as not to endanger self, fellow workers, or property. Must be willing to travel away from duty station occasionally.

HOW TO APPLY: Submit:

- Resume or OF-306 (available at <http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/of.asp>),
- Your answers to the four Factors in the Supplemental Experience Statement,
- Provide documentation to address Specialized Experience requirements,
- Copy of college transcripts (if substituting for experience),and
- DD-214 (Member 4 copy) and/or VA letter required for applicable Veteran preference

CONTACT OFFICE:

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Deadline to receive application materials is **March 31, 2017**. If you have any questions, please call (719) 252-1750.

- **Must be a U.S. Citizen**
- Must be 18 years old
- If you are a male born after December 31, 1959, and are at least 18 years of age, civil service employment law (5 U.S.C. 3328) requires that you must be registered with the Selective Service System, unless you meet certain exemptions (proof of registration and/or exemption required)
Website: <http://www.sss.gov>

Carrying a firearm is a condition of Employment – In the passing of the *Lautenberg Amendment*, Congress passed legislation which prohibits anyone who has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing a firearm or ammunition. If selected you will be required to sign the form, “Inquiry for Positions Requiring Possession of Firearms,” certifying that you meet this criteria.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIENCE STATEMENT

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE TO BE ANSWERED ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER AND SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION:

FACTOR 1: A general background in biology and agriculture which demonstrates the ability to learn basic wildlife damage management methods and techniques as it relates to protection of agriculture, including the use of firearms, traps, pesticides, computers, and reading wildlife sign.

- a. Describe any experience and/or education in biology and agriculture which demonstrate the ability to implement, or to learn how to implement, basic wildlife damage management methods and techniques.
- b. Describe in detail the kinds and extent of experience you have with the following methods-techniques:
 - firearms
 - traps

- pesticides
- reading wildlife sign (i.e. identification of tracks, scat, rubs, etc.)
- use of computers

FACTOR 2: ABILITY TO PLAN, ORGANIZE AND WORK INDEPENDENTLY: Describe any experience that would demonstrate your ability to plan, organize and work independently. Also describe specific experience related to data collection using various computer software programs and writing non-technical reports.

FACTOR 3: ABILITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH OTHERS: What experience do you have in dealing with others? Have you had to negotiate issues or handle controversial matters? Describe.

FACTOR 4: KNOWLEDGE OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT: Describe your knowledge of Federal, State, and local laws and regulations pertaining to wildlife damage management.

Note: The questions for Factors 1-4 of the Supplemental Experience Statement, must be answered, signed, and dated.

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE AT THE GS-6 GRADE LEVELS:

FOR THE GS-06 LEVEL: Applicants must have one year of specialized experience (equivalent to the GS-05 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors which demonstrates:

- Experience conducting wildlife counts and abundance surveys.
- Experience in the use of firearms, traps, snares, pesticides, immobilizing drugs, pyrotechnics, electronic harassment devices, and other non-lethal control tools to manage wildlife.
- Experience in the preparation of wildlife management plans, informational materials, or similar documents.
- Experience providing technical assistance to customers to resolve wildlife conflicts.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR GS-6

- One year of experience equivalent to at least the GS-5 grade level in the Federal service, **OR**
- Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree with major study of at least 24 hours in any combination of courses such as biology, wildlife, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics.

OR

COMBINATION OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE AT THE GS-6 GRADE LEVELS:

Applicants may have combinations of successfully completed education, experience and specialized experience to meet total qualification requirements. The total percentages must equal at least 100 percent to qualify for that grade level. To learn more about combining education and experience for this series.

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/#url=GS-TECH>

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Serves as a member of the WS workforce engaged in animal damage control operations.

Incumbent will be required to be familiar with and know how to use various devices, chemicals, tools, firearms and related equipment utilized in animal and bird damage control

operations.

Must be able to correctly identify current, and forecast future, damage problems and relate them to the depredating species and determine/select the most effective means of control.

Must be highly skilled in the use of various WS control methods and procedures including the use of firearms. Means of control utilized may include the use of snares, traps, calling, shooting or den hunting.

Must be able to discuss Endangered Species concepts, and be familiar with the ranges of the various threatened and endangered species that might come in conflict with any phase of WS programs.

Responsible for, and may instruct others in, the maintenance, repair and safekeeping of tools, supplies and equipment issued. When using toxic materials, must maintain records pursuant to the State Pesticide statutes and regulations and Environmental Protection Agency use restriction.

Must be able to identify predator or rodent species by sight, sound, tracks, type of depredation or damage present, examine other appropriate evidence and correctly identify such damage situations and relate them to the depredating species.

Incumbent may be required to serve as instructor and conduct demonstrations and training for cooperators or other interested groups on WS control methods, procedures, and program objectives. This may include preliminary instruction and training of new personnel or WS equipment, devices, chemicals, firearms, etc., reporting procedures, field responsibilities and other technical aspects of the program.

Prepares and submits routine and special reports regarding daily, weekly or monthly activities, observations, events and other relevant data collected.

May be required to pass Certified Applicator examination, as required of persons who use restricted-use pesticides.

Emergency Response - APHIS is an emergency response agency. This means that all Agency employees may be asked or assigned to participate in rotating temporary duty assignments to support emergency programs at some time during their career with APHIS. It is difficult to predict the frequency with which such emergency situations may occur and could range from several emergencies in a year to none over the course of many years. In the event you are called upon to support an emergency program, this may require irregular working hours including overtime and may include duties other than those specified in your official position description. While some emergency program support assignments may be able to be performed at the employee's current duty station, in other cases employees may be asked to go on-site to a temporary duty station location. In addition, it may be necessary for employees to participate in multiple rotations to an emergency program assignment. Attempts will be made to keep disruption to the employees to a minimum.

Candidates will be considered without discrimination for any non-merit reasons such as race, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, politics, disability, age, or membership or non-membership in an employee organization.