



## OUTREACH NOTICE

### NORTHERN REGION

#### State & Private Forestry

#### Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

*"Caring for the Land and Serving People"*



### ***GS-0404-7/8/9 Biological Science Technician***

**The USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, Forest Health Protection (FHP)** is conducting outreach for a full-time permanent Biological Science Technician in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity. This position is located in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Supervisors Office, Coeur d'Alene, ID. For more information contact Gina Davis at (208) 765-7342 or [gina.davis@usda.gov](mailto:gina.davis@usda.gov).

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). 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.

#### **The Position**

The Coeur d'Alene FHP field office provides services to all Federal and Tribal lands in the Northern Region. The primary purpose of this position is to perform field and laboratory-based surveys for detecting, identifying, monitoring and evaluating forest insects, plant pathogens and potential management solutions. Surveys include aerial observation and use of GIS-based digital mapping equipment. Additional support for projects and data entry, error checking and maintaining databases related to these activities is a primary duty. The incumbent will also resolve common administrative and safety concerns related to field and lab projects; may train and supervise lower grade employees.

#### **Major Duties for Target GS-9 Level:**

- Performs project planning activities concerning pest management and forest health protection. Design, coordinate and execute forest health protection/pest field and laboratory projects.
- Develop a project work plan, which includes selecting the methods for pest detection, collection, identification, and evaluation.
- Resolves administrative and safety concerns related to the project and may train and supervises lower grade employees assigned to the project.
- Conduct aerial and ground surveys including forest health monitoring, biological evaluations and pilot tests to collect the data required. Organizes, verifies, and refines the data collected. Ability to recognize and measure local insect and disease agents including trees with unhealthy or newly dead crowns.

## Specialized Experience

Candidate must meet OPM Qualification Standard educational requirements and have one year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the next lower grade level to be eligible for employment with a GS-0404 07 or 08 or 09 position.

## Basic Qualification Requirements

Those who are interested must be U.S. citizens and meet the basic qualification requirements for the GS 0404 series as identified by OPM at this website: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/0400/biological-science-technician-series-0404/>

## 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, rocky terrain covered with thick vegetation in all seasons. Aerial surveys require the ability to ride in fixed and rotary wing aircraft at low levels over mountainous terrain for extended periods of time, while recording host tree and damage agent observations.

This position requires extensive overnight travel and work in field locations.

Normal color and stereovision is essential for accurate recognition of discolored, injured vegetation.

## How to Respond

If you are interested in this position **please fill out the response form** included in this outreach and email to [gina.davis@usda.gov](mailto:gina.davis@usda.gov) no later than close of business **March 27, 2020**.

This position will be hired through an Announcement number at [www.usajobs.gov](http://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 Idaho Panhandle National Forests Supervisors Office, Coeur d'Alene, ID.

## Community Information



Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, a full-service community of over 40,000 people. Approximately 130,000 people live in Kootenai County. Located on the northern shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, the city is 100 miles south of the Canadian border, 33 miles east of Spokane, Washington, and an hour's drive from the Montana state line. There are four distinct seasons, with summer average highs and lows of 82 degrees and 51 degrees; and average winter temperatures from 38 degrees and 26 degrees, with consistent amounts of snowfall.

Higher education opportunities are available. North Idaho College (NIC) is located in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and 30 miles to the west of Coeur d'Alene, in Spokane, Washington, several colleges provide higher education

opportunities. Moscow, Idaho is 80 miles south of Coeur d'Alene, and is the home of the University of Idaho. Washington State University is located just eight miles west of Moscow in Pullman, Washington, and Gonzaga University is located 33 miles away in Spokane. NIC, U of I, and other universities offer adult education classes in Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls.

Health care services include a full service hospital, physicians, dentist, chiropractors, optometrists, physical therapist, and mental health services at the Kootenai Medical Center. There is both an active professional and volunteer EMT program within the Coeur d'Alene communities. There are nursing homes and retirement centers within the community.

This area is often called "lake country" and Lake Coeur d'Alene is a center for recreation, as are the readily available National Forest lands. Recreational opportunities are numerous, including summer activities of camping, hiking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, motorcycle riding, golfing, boating and water skiing, and fishing. During the winter months, hunting, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling are popular. There are four winter ski resorts within easy drive of Coeur d'Alene, Mt. Spokane, Schweitzer, Silver Mountain, and Lookout Pass. The area contains several hundred miles of fishable streams and numerous lakes.

If you would like additional information about the city of Coeur d'Alene, you can contact [the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce](#) at (208) 664-3194. Extensive additional information on the North Idaho area can be found on the internet at [the Guide to North Idaho](#).

**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: Biological Science Technician**

**UNIT: Forest Health Protection, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

**Reply by March 27, 2020**

<b>NAME:</b>	
<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>MAILING ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:</b>	
<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	

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><b>Person with Disabilities</b> (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><b>Veterans Recruitment Act</b> (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><b>Disabled Veterans W/30% Compensable Disability</b> (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><b>Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998</b> (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><b>Former Peace Corps Volunteer</b> (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><b>Pathways Recent Graduate Program</b> (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><b>Other (Identify)</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

**Provide a brief summary (1-2 sentences) of your qualifications related specifically to forest pest insects and diseases.**

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