



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: January 16th, 2020

CLOSING DATE: January 30th, 2020

POSITION TITLE: Biological Science Technician (Wildlife) – Multiple Vacancies

TYPE OF POSITION: Excepted Service- Temporary Appointment not to exceed 5 months (March – July) with possibility for Benefits.

WORK SCHEDULE: Full Time (Seasonal)

ANNOUNCEMENT #:

SERIES/GRADE: GS-0404-3/4/5

FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL: The position will be hired at a single grad level, so the full performance will be the grade of initial hire. Grade determination is based upon meeting the minimum qualification requirements of the individual grade level.

LOCATION: Pittstown, NJ
Robbinsville, NJ
Pomona, NJ
(Relocation expenses will not be paid)

SALARY: \$29,280 - \$50,765 per year

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife
Services

New Jersey
State
Office

140C Locust Grove
Road, Pittstown NJ
08867
Ph: (908) 735-5654
Fax: (908) 735-0821

An Equal Opportunity
Employer

WHO MAY APPLY:

- 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>.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Resume (include days/months/years worked, work schedule, and grade level if federal)
- Transcripts (if qualifying on education)
- DD-214 (Member 4 copy) and/or VA letter required for applicable Veteran reference.
- Current active duty members must submit a certification that they are expected to be discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification is submitted.

HOW TO APPLY: Additional materials not listed above (i.e. position descriptions, training certificates, etc.) may not be considered. Applicants who do not submit the required items listed

above may not be considered. Applications with all supporting documents must be submitted to the contact office and must be **RECEIVED** by the **CLOSING DATE** of this announcement.

Interested individuals should send a resume, transcripts, veteran documentation (if applicable) to the address listed here:

CONTACT OFFICE:

Aaron Guikema
State Director

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services New Jersey

Aaron.t.guikema@usda.gov

908-735-5654

DUTIES:

This position is located within the Wildlife Services (WS) Program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The assignment involves the performance of duties relating to wildlife management, use of control techniques aimed at managing wildlife damage, and wildlife disease sampling. Managing wildlife damage relates particularly to that of beavers flooding roads and property, birds causing damage to property, predators preying on threatened and endangered species and livestock, wildlife disease surveillance when conflicts cause economic, public health or agricultural concern, and other similar projects. The incumbent will work with other technicians and wildlife biologists from State and Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations. The work is primarily concerned with WS operations relating to the cessation, alleviation or mitigation of problems created by aquatic rodents, birds and other animals in urban or rural environments, and wildlife disease surveillance.

- Serves as a member of the WS workforce engaged in wildlife damage management operations.
- Incumbent will be required to collect biological samples from birds and the environment.
- Follow instructions in wildlife disease (avian influenza) surveillance plans as directed by Supervisor.
- Incumbent will be required to be familiar with and know how to use various devices, chemicals, tools, bird and mammal traps and nets, firearms and related equipment utilized in mammal and bird damage management operations.
- Must be able to correctly identify current, and forecast future damage problems, and relate them to depredating species and determine/select the most effective means of control. Must be able to correctly identify current, and forecast future, migratory bird movements to plan capture and sampling efforts.
- Must be highly skilled in the use of various WS damage management methods and procedures including the use of firearms and various avian and mammalian traps. Damage management methods utilized may include the use of snares, traps, nets, 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 registered pesticides, investigational new animal drugs, or controlled substances, must maintain records pursuant to the State Pesticide statutes, Drug Enforcement Agency and Board of Pharmacy statutes and Environmental Protection Agency pesticide use restriction.

- Must be able to identify birds and mammals by sight, sound, call, 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 damage management methods and wildlife disease (avian influenza) surveillance, procedures, and program objectives. This may include preliminary instruction and training of new personnel on 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.
- Will be required to pass Restricted Use Pesticide Applicator examination, as required of persons who use restricted-use pesticides within 90 days of appointment.
- Must demonstrate a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, rocket nets, chemical methods, control devices, and equipment.
- Must have a valid State Motor Vehicle Operator's or Commercial License, as appropriate.
- Operation of Government-owned or leased vehicles is required.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To qualify, applicants **MUST** meet all minimum qualification requirements, except Medical Requirements, by the closing date of the announcement.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

GENERALIZED EXPERIENCE AT THE GS-3 GRADE LEVEL:

Applicants must have 6 months of work experience that demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the work of the position or experience that provided a familiarity with the subject matter or processes of the broad subject area of the occupation.

OR

EDUCATION SUBSTITUTION AT THE GS-3 GRADE LEVEL:

Successful completion of 1 year of study that included at least 6 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics.

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE AT THE GS-4 GRADE LEVEL:

Applicant must have 6 months of general experience and 6 months of specialized experience to perform the work of the position.

Examples of qualifying experience include, but are not limited to:

- Experience using damage control techniques, including, but not limited to, predator, rodent and bird control toxicants, techniques, traps, snares and formulating scents and baits;
- Inspecting and surveying areas with the ability to recognize various wildlife species.
- Meeting and communicating with individuals or groups.
- Recognize habits, characteristics, and habitats occupied by a variety of avian and mammalian wildlife species.

OR

EDUCATION SUBSTITUTION AT THE GS-4 GRADE LEVEL:

Successful completion of 2 years of study that included at least 12 semester hours in any combination of 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.

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE AT THE GS-5 GRADE LEVEL:

Applicants must have 1 year of specialized experience equivalent in level of difficulty and responsibility to the next lower level (GS-4) in the Federal service. This experience may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors.

Examples of qualifying experience include, but are not limited to:

- Using damage control techniques, including, but not limited to, predator, rodent and pest bird control techniques utilizing harassment devices, traps, and other migratory bird damage management techniques, including but not limited to, pyrotechnics, scare devices, and other various techniques as required.
- Using specialty equipment such as firearms, ATV's, watercraft, trucks, etc.
- Preparing reports regarding activities, observations, events, and other relevant data collected. Input operations data into established and custom databases.
- Training on the control methods, procedures, technical aspects, and objectives used for wildlife damage management.
- Inspecting and surveying areas with the ability to recognize various wildlife species.
- Meeting and communicating with individuals or groups in order to mitigate wildlife conflicts.

OR

EDUCATION SUBSTITUTION AT THE GS-5 LEVEL:

GS-5: A full four-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 biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least 6 semester hours of courses must have been in wildlife biology, ecology, or management.

COMBINATION OF EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE AT THE GS-03/04/05 GRADE LEVEL: Applicants may have combinations of successfully completed education and specialized experience to meet total qualification requirements. The total percentages must equal at least 100 percent to qualify for that grade level.

TRANSCRIPTS are required if:

- You are qualifying for the position based on education.
- You are qualifying for this position based on a combination of experience and education.
- This education must have been successfully completed and obtained from an accredited school, college, or university.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To qualify, applicants **MUST** meet all minimum qualification requirements, except Medical Requirements, by the closing date of the announcement.

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED

Applicants who meet basic minimum qualifications may be referred to the hiring manager for selection. Qualified candidates eligible for veterans' preference will receive referral and selection priority over non-veterans.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS: (if applicable to your position)

- Must obtain or have a valid New Jersey driver's license. Operation of Government-owned or leased vehicles is required. (if this applies)

- As a condition of employment, appropriate security clearance is required for this position.
- Position is subject to random and applicant drug testing.
- Must demonstrate a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices, and equipment.
- In order to perform the essential duties of this position, you must have the legal and physical ability to possess and discharge firearms. You must be able to pass a government background check and meet any additional requirements to carry and use firearms. A background check will include answering questions about where you've lived, worked, went to school, and any military history or police records. Selection and retention in this position is contingent on a successfully adjudicated FBI National Criminal History Check (fingerprint check).

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 careers 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 that 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 state 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 employee to a minimum.

See this link: <https://www.usajobs.gov//Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/signature-false-statements/>

NOTE: APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO URINALYSIS TO SCREEN FOR ILLEGAL DRUG USE PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT. APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION WILL BE CONTINGENT UPON A NEGATIVE DRUG TEST RESULT. INCUMBENTS OF THIS POSITION WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO URINALYSIS TO SCREEN FOR ILLEGAL DRUG USE ON AN ONGOING BASIS AFTER APPOINTMENT, AS DIRECTED.

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.

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy-

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and

hiring process should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a Case-by-Case basis.

A reasonable accommodation is any change in the workplace or the way things are customarily done that provides an equal employment opportunity to an individual with a disability. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) must provide reasonable accommodations:

- An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events.

Relocation costs will not be paid for this position.

More than one position may be selected from this announcement.