



# BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST



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## OUTREACH NOTICE

PERMANENT/FULL-TIME or CAREER SEASONAL  
MULTIPLE POSITIONS  
BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST  
Northern Hills Ranger District  
Spearfish, South Dakota

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REPLY DUE: FEBRUARY 4, 2022

The Black Hills National Forest is currently seeking candidates for multiple permanent/full-time or career seasonal positions on the Northern Hills Ranger District in Spearfish, SD. This notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of these upcoming opportunities. These positions will be filled through the upcoming Society of Range Management (SRM) Conference, which will be held both virtually and in-person from February 6-10, 2022. Applicants do not need to attend the conference to apply. All positions will be filled through Recent Graduate/Merit job announcements, which will be available on USAJOBS ([www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)) from February 8-17, 2022. Positions to be filled include:

- One permanent/full-time **Hydrologist, GS-1315-05/07** with promotion potential to GS-09.
- One permanent/full-time **Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-05/07** with promotion potential to GS-09.
- One permanent/full-time **Recreation Management Specialist, GS-0301-07** with promotion potential to GS-09.
- One permanent/full-time **Rangeland Management Specialist, GS-0454-05/07** with promotion potential to GS-09.
- One career seasonal (18/8) **Archeologist, GS-0193-07** with promotion potential to GS-09.
- One career seasonal (18/8) **Range Technician GS-0455-04/05** with promotion potential to GS-07.

Further information about each of these positions is found below.

### **Hydrologist, GS-1315-05/07**

This is a career-ladder position starting at the GS-1315-05 or 07 level with the promotion potential to GS-09. This position performs professional work in the field of hydrology and has responsibility to conduct and interpret hydrologic surveys and analysis, watershed rehabilitation and management planning, and providing technical guidance within the framework of multiple-use management of forest and range lands. This position would be zoned, and the incumbent could also conduct work on the Bearlodge Ranger District in Sundance, WY as necessary. Major duties include:

- Assists in the development of land management planning related to hydrological evaluation.
- Prepares hydrological management prescriptions to protect and enhance water resource.

- Serves on interdisciplinary teams as a project proponent and/or as an interdisciplinary team member to complete NFMA and NEPA efforts.
- Conducts water resource inventories and assessments to assist in land management planning procedures.
- Interprets watershed data for input to environmental reports.
- Evaluates impacts of land management (timber, fuels, mining, and special use permits) in correlation with water resources.
- Plans, coordinates, and leads the implementation of watershed restoration efforts.
- Ability to navigate using a topographic map and GPS.
- Provides support to other projects.
- Serve as a field crew lead and be responsible for leading a field crew of 3-4 individuals in rough terrain with greatly varying weather conditions and temperatures.
- Provide technical guidance for Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- A valid driver's license is required.

For more information on the Hydrologist position, please contact Melissa Dempsey, North Zone Hydrologist, at [melissa.dempsey@usda.gov](mailto:melissa.dempsey@usda.gov) or (605) 443-3070.

### **Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-05/07**

This is a career-ladder position starting at the GS-0486-05 or 07 level with the promotion potential to GS-09. The incumbent would serve as one of two wildlife biologists on the Northern Hills Ranger District. The district has an active timber program, and the biologists play a critical role in providing expertise for the implementation of timber sales. Duties of the position include:

- Gathering and analyzing field data, determining habitat requirements, and developing design criteria to meet those requirements for any species of concern located within a timber sale area.
- Providing input for a variety of other projects covered under categorical exclusions including but not limited to recreation special use permits, utility and road access requests, grazing allotment improvements, mining operations, and fuels reduction projects.
- Serve on the district interdisciplinary team with the responsibility to work with other resource specialists to analyze and provide input on projects. Technical reports such as biological evaluations and biological assessments are completed as necessary.
- During the field season, the biologists work closely with the wildlife crew, consisting of up to three seasonal biological technicians. The biologists outline field work needs for the crew and monitor their progress.
- Field surveys are typically focused on monitoring known raptor nest locations, surveying suitable habitat for new nests across the district, and conducting field reconnaissance of planned timber sale areas to identify any necessary protection measures for sensitive species or species of local concern.
- One threatened or endangered species, the northern long-eared bat, is native to the Black Hills. The biologists are responsible for developing mitigations to protect known locations of the northern long-eared bat and consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service as necessary.
- Known locations of any species of concern are documented and maintained in a GIS database, which is updated each year under direction of the biologists.
- This position is also responsible for identifying and implementing wildlife habitat improvement projects, which includes identifying areas on the ground, developing prescriptions for treatment, and working with partners such as the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Wild Turkey Federation to coordinate project funding and implementation.
- When possible, the biologists and the seasonal crew also provide support to the district's botany program. This includes assisting with surveys and project work as well as notifying the district botanist

of any potential plants of interest that are encountered while conducting wildlife-related field work. A basic knowledge of plant identification is not required but is an asset.

- The wildlife biologists provide input each year on program funding needs, including personnel, vehicles, equipment, survey contracts, and habitat improvement projects. They are also responsible for tracking habitat improvement accomplishments and reporting those to the Forest biologist.
- A valid driver's license is required.

For more information on the Wildlife Biologist position, please contact Chris Stores, Natural Resources Planner, at [chris.stores@usda.gov](mailto:chris.stores@usda.gov) or (605) 443-3081.

### **Recreation Management Specialist, GS-0301-07**

This is a career-ladder position starting at the GS-0301-07 level with the promotion potential to GS-09. This position serves as the district Recreation Management Specialist as an advance trainee for recreation, trails, volunteers, and special uses. Duties of the position include:

- The incumbent will receive training in development and administration of annual work plans for trails (motorized, non-motorized and snowmobile), special uses and recreation resources; preparation of program input relevant to variety of natural resources management planning processes, including NEPA; and preparation and tracking of the annual program budget.
- As an advanced trainee, the employee will continue to receive training in more advanced skills, techniques and procedures, and will perform specific portions or minor phases of assignments involving the inspection of recreation special uses, administering special use authorizations for outfitter and guides, recreation events, as well as other recreation and lands special uses.
- The incumbent will participate in surveys and studies of recreation facilities, trails, and their present visitor use and demand; and will assist higher graded employees or supervisor in inventory and monitoring activities to determine resource conditions and develop proposals for rehabilitation plans.
- The employee will also receive training in the use and maintenance of INFRA, SUDS, TRACS and other databases used to monitor unit's wilderness, special uses, trails, and recreation program activities.
- A valid driver's license is required.

For more information on the Recreation Management Specialist position, please contact Bonnie Jones, Recreation Specialist, at [bonnie.jones@usda.gov](mailto:bonnie.jones@usda.gov) or (605) 443-3075.

### **Rangeland Management Specialist, GS-0454-05/07**

This is a career-ladder position starting at the GS-0454-05 or 07 level with the promotion potential to GS-09. The position provides professional and technical expertise to a complex Rangeland Management program. This position would be zoned, and the incumbent could also conduct work on the Bearlodge Ranger District in Sundance, WY as necessary. The incumbent is responsible for:

- Conducting short- and long-term monitoring of plant communities and their trends; grazing impacts, precipitation, soil erosion hazards and riparian condition.
- Conducts studies of range conditions, trends, and utilization.
- Carrying out ecosystem-based rangeland surveys and inventories.
- Gathering and assembling data concerning rangeland health, trends, ecological status of vegetation communities, site potential and desired plant community.
- Compiles material and supply estimates and oversees the construction and maintenance of rangeland projects.
- Makes recommendations for improved rangeland and livestock administration and provides input into the development of subsequent rangeland and livestock management decisions.

- Prepares livestock management plans, determines location and proper stocking, and locates, prescribes, designs, and schedules rangeland improvement projects such as fences, pipelines, cattleguards, plant community changes, or prescribed burning.
- Maintains continuing working relationship with permittees and others to ensure compliance with agreed upon plans and desired quality of work, and to advise rangeland users of various activities affecting their use of specific rangeland areas. Prepares and revises annual rangeland user instructions. Prepares or initiates action on cooperative agreements for rangeland improvements.
- Assists in the administration of grazing permits by consulting, coordinating, and cooperating with permittees and other rangeland users. Determines permittee compliance with permits and makes recommendations to correct discrepancies.
- Determines rangeland readiness for various rangeland uses, inspects rangeland uses for compliance with permits, and monitors the results of the rangeland uses that are permitted or allowed. Prepares rangeland improvement maintenance schedules and keeps records of existing and proposed improvements, maintenance needs, and accomplishments.
- Conducts range allotment inspections, compiles actual use information, and prepares allotment management plans. Determines proper stocking and rotation schemes.
- The incumbent will spend approximately 60% of their time in the field, and may travel on foot, horseback, ATV, and 4x4 vehicle.
- It is desirable for applicants to have some of the following skills: the ability to navigate using a topographic map and GPS; experience around horses and riding; a strong background in the principles of rangeland management; comfort working alone or in small groups; plant identification skills with an emphasis on grass species; good writing and oral communication skills and the ability to utilize computers for writing, analysis, and data input.
- A valid driver's license is required.

For more information on the Rangeland Management Specialist position, please contact Wes Hartmann, Rangeland Management Specialist, at [wesley.b.hartmann@usda.gov](mailto:wesley.b.hartmann@usda.gov) or (605) 443-3115.

### **Archeologist, GS-0193-07**

This is a career seasonal position starting at the GS-0193-07 level with the promotion potential to GS-09. This position would have a tour of duty of 18 pay periods (36 weeks) on pay status with 8 pay periods off each year. The incumbent of this position will provide Heritage support (Section 106 and 110) for a wide variety of projects to include: Timber, Lands, Recreation, Wildlife, Engineering, and Fuels. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Planning, pre-field research, archaeological survey, and site recording and evaluation, to include making National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) determinations of eligibility.
- The incumbent will also be responsible for completion of Section 106 reports (to include making determinations of effect and developing site protection measures) that meet state standards, to include consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), or documenting Section 106 compliance under a programmatic agreement.
- The position will also attend interdisciplinary team (IDT) and project planning meetings, enter data into the NRM and Mercury databases, send archived data to the state repository and assist the District Archeologist in ensuring that Heritage Program Managed to Standard measures are met as well as any other needs.
- The incumbent will at times serve as a field crew lead and be responsible for leading a field crew of 2-3 individuals in rough terrain with greatly varying weather conditions and temperatures.
- A valid driver's license is required.

For more information on the Archeologist position, please contact David Porter, Archeologist, at [david.m.porter@usda.gov](mailto:david.m.porter@usda.gov) or (605) 443-3088.

### **Range Technician, GS-0455-04/05**

This is a career seasonal position starting at the GS-0455-04/05 level with promotion potential to GS-07. This position would have a tour of duty of 18 pay periods (36 weeks) on pay status with 8 pay periods off each year. The position is a Range Technician, with an entry grade level of GS-05 and a full promotion potential to the GS-07. This position would be zoned, and the incumbent could also conduct work on the Bearlodge Ranger District in Sundance, WY as necessary. Duties include:

- Implementation of the noxious weed program on the Northern Hills and Bearlodge Ranger Districts, which includes the use of chemicals and biological controls.
- The range technician will assist specialists in support of rangeland management.
- Checks range allotments to assess appropriate time to graze, compliance with management plans and operating instructions, number of livestock, salting, range improvement maintenance, and the need for additional range improvements such as fences or water developments.
- Inspects allotments before and after grazing for trespass stock and if found, gathers necessary brands, numbers, dates, and locations.
- Contacts range users to explain needed maintenance work and reports noncompliance to supervisor.
- The range technician recommends the construction or abandonment of range improvements such as fences, water developments, etc.
- The range technician may lead small crews in construction and/or maintenance of range improvements.
- The range technician will perform a variety of computations and assessment of standard rangeland management data to prepare the data for interpretative use of inclusion in reports. He/she prepares charts, graphs, and/or reports using well-established specified procedures.
- The incumbent would take notes and develop reports on conditions such as range utilization, grazing impact, soil erosion, violations, or needed maintenance.
- The range technician makes a number of measurements using a variety of instruments. The range technician performs computations that require judgment and knowledge of the nature of the sources and use of the data.
- The incumbent would estimate production and potential production of a site based on various sampling techniques and would estimate the utilization of available forage by all grazing animals and determine as closely as possible the percent of use by each class of animal. Using accepted indicator plants, the range technician determines range readiness and advises their supervisor.
- A valid driver's license is required.

For more information on the Range Technician position, please contact Wes Hartmann, Rangeland Management Specialist, at [wesley.b.hartmann@usda.gov](mailto:wesley.b.hartmann@usda.gov) or (605) 443-3115.

**Please respond by sending an email to, or submitting the attached form to, the contact listed above for the position in which you are interested by February 4, 2022.**

### **\*BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST\***

The Black Hills National Forest employs 275 full-time permanent employees on four ranger districts and at the Forest Supervisor's Office. It is the largest forest in the Rocky Mountain Region in terms of budget, workforce, timber production, and fire and fuels management.

The Black Hills encompass 1.2 million acres of forested hills and mountains stretching 110 miles from north to south and 70 miles from east to west, with approximately 87 percent located in South Dakota and the remaining 13 percent in Wyoming. The Black Hills rise from the surrounding grasslands into a ponderosa pine forest to an elevation of 7,246 feet atop Black Elk Peak, which is the highest point in United States east of the Rocky Mountains. The Black Hills are described as an “Island in the Plains” with a diversity of wildlife and plants including species from the forests of the eastern U.S. and from the western plains. The Forest boasts a good balance of multiple uses, and a wide range of recreation activities.

Five National Park system destinations are adjacent to or within 50 miles of the Black Hills National Forest. These include Mount Rushmore National Monument, Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Badlands National Park, and Devils Tower National Monument. In addition, the nation’s second largest state park, Custer State Park, is located in the southeastern Black Hills.

### **\*NORTHERN HILLS RANGER DISTRICT\***

The Northern Hills Ranger District is stationed in Spearfish, SD and employs approximately 50-55 permanent full-time employees and an additional 50 seasonal hires. It encompasses approximately 326,000 acres in the northern Black Hills. Vegetation management (timber harvest and fuels reduction) and related silvicultural activities are the largest resource programs on the district. The district also has active programs in lands and minerals, wildlife habitat improvement, recreation, cultural resources, and livestock grazing.

Spearfish is located 45 miles west of Rapid City, SD, and 10 miles east of the South Dakota/Wyoming state line at the intersection of Interstate 90 and US Highway 85. The elevation is 3,680 feet above sea level.

Spearfish has a population of approximately 15,000, including nearby developments, and is a thriving, progressive, and scenic community. It is immediately adjacent to the northern slopes of the Black Hills. Temperatures are moderate, though seasonal, with warm, dry summers and cold, snowy winters. Average rainfall is 22 inches, and average snowfall is 40 inches. Prevailing winds are from the northwest. The average annual mean temperature is 47.5 degrees, with an average winter temperature of 29 degrees and an average summer temperature of 65 degrees.

Spearfish offers a four-year public university (Black Hills State University; enrollment 4,395) that offers 72 academic programs at the associate, bachelor, and master’s degree levels. Spearfish has numerous churches, motels, grocery stores, restaurants, and banks. A hospital, multiple medical and dental clinics, and a nursing home are located in town. Spearfish has a police and fire department, emergency medical technicians, city offices, and many retail businesses. The nearest commercial airline service is available at the Rapid City Regional Airport 55 miles east of Spearfish. Numerous shopping, dining, and entertainment options and other services are available in Rapid City (population 75,000).

Recreation facilities include two golf courses, a bowling alley, soccer and baseball fields, tennis and horseshoe courts, museums, numerous parks, a large indoor fitness and athletic center with adjacent outdoor water park, a city campground, an extensive city bike path, and several private campgrounds. Lookout Mountain Park, which includes several miles of non-motorized trails, is located immediately adjacent to town, and the Crow Peak trail and Tinton trail are both accessible within five miles of town. Forest Service campgrounds are available within 15 miles of town. Access to over 300 miles of snowmobile trails, groomed and ungroomed cross-country ski trails, a 120-mile long non-motorized trail (the Centennial trail), a 110-mile non-motorized trail (the Mickelson trail), thousands of miles of motorized roads and trails, and two downhill ski areas are all available within 25 miles of Spearfish.

Spearfish has a public school district with three elementary schools, one middle school (grades 6-8), one high school (grades 9-12), and one accredited Christian school (grades K-12). The city is also home to 10 preschools and 40 daycare facilities. Black Hills State University (<http://www.bhsu.edu/>) offers both day and night classes.

Numerous housing options are available in and around Spearfish. The average cost to rent a two-bedroom apartment is \$700, and the average cost to rent a two-bedroom house is \$1,000. Single family homes to purchase generally range from \$200,000 and up, with a median home price of approximately \$415,000. South Dakota does not have state income tax but does have a sales tax of 6.5%. Housing is also available in the neighboring cities of Belle Fourche (population 5,600, 12 miles north of Spearfish), Lead/Deadwood (combined population 4,300, 17 miles south), and Sturgis (population 6,800, 22 miles east). To view a listing of homes currently on the market, please visit <http://www.nbhrealtor.com/default.aspx>. No government housing is available.

For more information on the Spearfish community, contact the Spearfish Chamber of Commerce at (605) 642-2626 or view their website at: <https://spearfishchamber.org/community-profile/>.

# OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

**GS-1315-05/07 Hydrologist, permanent/full-time.**  
**GS-0486-05/07 Wildlife Biologist, permanent/full-time.**  
**GS-0301-07 Recreation Management Specialist, permanent/full-time.**  
**GS-0454-05/07 Rangeland Management Specialist, permanent/full-time.**  
**GS-0193-07 Archeologist, career seasonal (18/8).**  
**GS-0455-04/05 Range Technician, career seasonal (18/8).**

**Please submit the outreach response to the contact listed above under each position description. Please indicate in the subject line of your response which position(s) you are interested in.**

**Please reply by February 4, 2022**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH:  {USFS  {BLM  {OTHER

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:  {PERMANENT  {TEMPORARY  {TERM

{VRA  {PWD  {OTHER

CURRENT:  {REGION  {FOREST

\_\_\_\_\_ {DISTRICT

CURRENT:  {SERIES  {GRADE

CURRENT:  {POSITION TITLE

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS OUTREACH NOTICE?

IF NOT \_\_\_\_\_

A  
CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE  
ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AUTHORITIES:

- PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
- VETERANS RECRUITMENT ACT
- DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
- VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
- FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
- PATHWAYS PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!

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