



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: July 5, 2022

CLOSING DATE: July 15, 2022

POSITION TITLE: Biological Science Technician (Wildlife) – 7 Positions

TYPE OF POSITION: Term Appointment with possibility of benefits, Excepted Service. Approximate start date of **August 1, 2022**, through the end of seasonal work activities (end of November, early December).

WORK SCHEDULE: Full-Time (seasonal), maxiflex including weekends, early mornings and nights

ANNOUNCEMENT #:

SERIES/GRADE: GS-0404-4/5

FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL: GS-0404-5

LOCATION: **North Dakota:** Emmons, Mclean, Stutsman, Ward and Hettinger counties.
South Dakota: Wallworth, Hughes, and Day counties (Relocation expenses will not be paid)

SALARY: **GS-4** \$ 33,221 - \$41,967 annually
GS-5 \$36,118 - \$46,953 annually

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife
Services

Utah State
Office

PO Box 26976
Salt Lake City,
Utah 84126
Ph: (801) 975-3315
Fax: (801) 975-3320

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 hours per week and days/months/years worked)
- Transcripts (if qualifying on education)
- DD-214 (Member 4 copy) and/or VA letter required for applicable Veteran preference.
- 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:
USDA-APHIS- Wildlife Services
John Paulson
State Director ND/SD Wildlife Services
2110 Miriam Circle, Suite A
Bismarck, ND 58501
John.d.paulson@aphis.usda.gov
(701) 355-3300

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you should need the forms identified in above paragraph, feel free to contact (701) 355-3300 for a copy.

DUTIES:

This position is located in the Wildlife Services (WS) Program, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The WS Program provides federal leadership in addressing wildlife damage problems to protect agriculture, property, natural resources and human health and safety. Both operational management and information sharing activities are conducted. The incumbent also assists with other wildlife management projects as required within the district or state program. Furthermore, the incumbent will:

- Provide operational and technical assistance while conducting wildlife damage management and assessment for the purpose of reducing human/wildlife conflicts; primarily in an agricultural environment.
- Be required to be familiar with and know how to use various devices, chemicals, tools, and related equipment utilized in mammal and bird damage control operations, including the use of pyrotechnics, propane cannons, and firearms.
- Modify and adapt established wildlife damage management methods as necessary.
- Gather, compile, and evaluate data on damage caused by birds and mammals.
- Keep accurate written records of their activities for the cooperator and Wildlife Services program using prescribed formats and procedures.
- Prepare and submit routine and special reports regarding daily, weekly or monthly activities, observations, and other relevant events.
- Demonstrate a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices, and equipment, including pyrotechnics and propane cannons.
- Conduct much of his/her time working independently and/or cooperatively with fellow WS personnel when necessary.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

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

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: Applicants must meet all qualifications and eligibility requirements by the closing date of the announcement including the following specialized experience and/or education, as identified by grade level.

FOR THE GS-04 LEVEL: Applicants must have 6 months of specialized experience (equivalent to the GS-03 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors which demonstrates:

- Experience using lethal and non-lethal animal control techniques.
- Ability to identify various species of animals.
- Experience working within local, state and national rules and regulations as they apply to wildlife policies and procedures.
- Experience preparing reports regarding activities, observations, events, and other relevant data collected.

OR

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

Equivalent combinations of education and experience are qualifying for this grade level.

For the GS-5 Grade Level:

Applicants must have 1-year of specialized experience equivalent to at least GS-4 that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors which demonstrates:

- Using damage control techniques, including, but not limited to, bird harassment techniques including pyrotechnics, firearms, and propane cannons.
- Preparing reports regarding activities, observations, events, and other relevant data collected.
- Meeting with producers, inspect and survey areas with the ability to recognize wildlife damage, and determine the best methodology to alleviate damage.
- Identifying various species of wildlife
- Recognizing habits, characteristics, and habitats occupied by a variety of wildlife species.

Equivalent combinations of education and experience are qualifying for this grade level.

OR:

Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree with major study or at least 24 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least 6 semester hours of courses must have been directly related to the position to be filled (Wildlife)

OTHER REQUIREMENTS: (if applicable to your position)

- Must obtain or have a valid North Dakota 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 have a knowledge of and be capable of using:
 - Working with the public and other cooperating agencies
 - Communication skills
 - Electronic equipment (GPS, Trimble, computer)
- Must demonstrate a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices, and equipment.
- Must have the ability to use computers, GPS units, and associated software to effectively communicate through e-mail and official correspondence, record data in web-based systems, and conduct basic analyses using spreadsheets and databases.
- 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).
- Work requires physical exertion such as walking over rough, uneven or rocky surfaces, bending, crouching, stooping and stretching. Agility and dexterity are required.
- Incumbent spends a considerable amount of time outdoors. The terrain may be uneven, rocky or in vegetation. There may be exposure to extremes of weather and temperature. The incumbent is also exposed to toxic chemicals.

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.

Failure to follow application instructions regarding filing appropriate forms and answering questions may result in loss of employment considerations for this position. **All applications must be signed, dated, and received by the closing date of this announcement.**

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.

All candidates will be considered without regarding to race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, political affiliation, or any 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.

To ensure compliance with an applicable preliminary nationwide injunction, which may be supplemented, modified, or vacated, depending on the course of ongoing litigation, the Federal Government will take no action to implement or enforce the COVID-19 vaccination requirement pursuant to Executive Order 14043 on *Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees*. Therefore, to the extent a Federal job announcement includes the requirement that applicants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 pursuant to E.O. 14043, that requirement does not currently apply. Federal agencies may request information regarding the vaccination status of selected applicants for the purposes of implementing other workplace safety protocols, such as protocols related to masking, physical distancing, testing, travel, and quarantine

Relocation costs will not be paid for this position.