



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife
Services

National Wildlife
Research Center

4101 Laporte Ave
Fort Collins, CO
80521

An Equal Opportunity
Employer

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: **March 13, 2023**

CLOSING DATE: **March 17, 2023**

POSITION TITLE: **Biological Science Technician (Summer Work Experience)**

OF VACANCIES: **1**

TYPE OF POSITION: Term Appointment with possibility for Benefits, Excepted Service
Not to exceed 10 Weeks; may be extended

WORK SCHEDULE: **Full time**

ANNOUNCEMENT #: **2023-NWRC-SWE-5**

SERIES/GRADE: GS-404-4

FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL: GS-404-4

LOCATION: Fargo, ND

(Relocation expenses will not be paid)

SALARY: \$34,584-43,801 per year

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)
 - 1) Personal information such as name, address, contact information
 - 2) Education
 - 3) Detailed work experience related to this position as described in the announcement including
 - Work schedule,
 - Hours worked per week,
 - Dates of employment;
 - Title, series, grade (if applicable)

- 4) All supervisors' phone numbers and if they may be contacted
 - 5) Other qualifications, such as transcripts (if qualifying on education)
- Transcripts (if qualifying on education)
 - DD-214 (Member 4 copy), if applicable for Veteran's Preference
 - VA letter required if claiming disabled Veteran's 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:

Page Klug, PhD
Supervisory Research Wildlife Biologist
USDA-APHIS-WS NWRC, North Dakota Field Station
Biological Sciences Dept. 2715
North Dakota State University
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-5060

Office: 701-231-5190
Mobile: 701-630-3776
Email: page.e.klug@usda.gov
www.aphis.usda.gov

The position is with the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), North Dakota Field Station located in Fargo, ND. This Field Station is primarily responsible for developing methods to manage blackbird and starling damage with lethal and nonlethal approaches and for developing knowledge of local and regional effects of management actions on the ecology and biology of these birds. This position will prepare feather and claw samples for analysis of hydrogen stable isotopes and will also extract RNA from non-feather tissue samples.

DUTIES:

- May be required to use chemical immobilization and euthanasia drugs to capture and handle wildlife under the general guidance of a higher-graded or more experienced employee.
- Assists Wildlife Biologists or higher-graded staff by correctly identifying common, current, or recent damage problems and relating them to the damage-causing species.
- Maintains inventories and compiles reports of government-provided equipment and supplies including locations, acquisitions, returns, and losses.

- Enters data into established database/system of record. Uses data to prepare and submit routine reports regarding daily, weekly or monthly activities, observations, events.
- Responsible for reporting accomplishments, problems encountered, work locations, etc. to supervisor. Maintains records of chemical control use to comply with State and Federal regulatory requirements.
- Carries out duties in accordance with program decisions made in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) under guidance and oversight by supervisor.
- Demonstrates a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices and materials, and equipment.
- Conducts all operations using approved safety procedures and in accordance with local, State and Federal laws and regulations, and USDA, APHIS, and WS policies.
- Identifies safety-related opportunities and challenges and communicates them to the supervisor.
- May assist WS research efforts by participating in field tests of proposed damage control materials, devices or methods or providing biological or other specimens.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

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

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

For the GS-4 Grade Level:

Applicants must have 6 months of general experience and 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 preparing biological samples for stable isotope analyses
- Experience in molecular ecology lab protocols (e.g., DNA extraction, qPCR)
- Identification of blackbird species including sex, age, and molt status

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 in wildlife.

OR

Combination of Education and Experience at the GS-4 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.

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 driver's license. Operation of Government-owned or leased vehicles may be required.
- Direct Deposit: Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to their financial institution.
- Successfully pass the E-Verify employment verification check. To learn more about E-Verify, including your rights and responsibilities, visit <https://www.e-verify.gov/>.
- Must demonstrate a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices, and equipment.
- 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.

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.

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.