



NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

"Great Escapes to Nature"

Outreach Announcement

(4 Positions)

National Forests in Alabama

Botanist

Series: 0430, Entry Grade: GS-07/09, Full Performance Level: GS-11
(1 Position, Duty Station of Montgomery, AL)

Soil Scientist

Series: 0470, Entry Grade: GS-07/09, Full Performance Level: GS-11
(1 Position, Duty Station of Montgomery, AL)

Hydrologist

Series: 1315, Entry Grade: GS-05/07, Full Performance Level: GS-09
(1 Position with Duty Station of Double Springs, AL, 1 Position with
Duty Station of Montgomery, AL)

Reply by: January 23, 2024

USDA Forest Service, Southern Region

National Forests in Alabama

www.fs.usda.gov/alabama

The National Forests in Alabama is looking to fill one Botanist, one Soil Scientist, and two Hydrologist Positions. The National Forests in Alabama consist of four proclaimed National Forests: the Bankhead, Conecuh, Talladega, and Tuskegee National Forests, totaling over 669,000 acres. These positions are expected to be advertised as part of USDA Forest Service participation in a Pathways Hiring Event, at the Society for Range Conservation Management Conference. The objective is to ensure that we hire the next generation of leaders who reflect the communities we serve in mission-critical and hard-to-fill occupations. The job announcements for these positions will be open on USAJOBS from **January 24, 2024, to February 21, 2024**. Applicants do not need to be at the conference to apply.

Botanist

Series: 0430

Entry Grade: GS-07/09

Full Performance Level: GS-11

Major Duties

Serves as a Botanist providing technical expert assistance to the unit in matters dealing with threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species and plant community and vegetation management. Responsible for the identification, management and plant ecology. Ensures consistency throughout the Forest in developing and implementing programs to manage and protect these plants.

Serves as a botanical expert when working on interdisciplinary teams interpreting complex botanical situations involving specialist from several management groups and agencies. Monitors effects of Forest Plan implementation on plant communities and interprets trends where management emphasis changes.

Duty Station: The duty station for this position is at the Supervisor's Office in Montgomery. No Government Housing is available for this position.

Telework eligibility: Yes, Scheduled or Ad Hoc with Supervisor agreement and may change as conditions and pandemic phasing changes.

Soil Scientist

Series: 0470

Entry Grade: GS-07/09

Full Performance Level: GS-11

Major Duties

Supplies soil related information to the land management planning process. Provides technical expertise in analyzing this information. Determines resource potentials, suggests alternative management practices, predicts the effect of each management alternative, and assesses the resource trade-offs required to build an optimum program. Formulates and recommends Forest short range programs for soils management and provides technical evaluation and support to the development of long-range plans.

Makes assigned soil management investigations of soil management problem areas, analyzes this data, and makes recommendations which are used in preparing integrated plans for resource management activities on the Forest. Advises land managers of capabilities and limitations of soils for a variety of contemplated uses and activities (e.g., timber sales, watershed rehabilitation projects, transportation planning, or recreation development). Serves on interdisciplinary teams conducting environmental analyses of proposed projects. Provides soil related information needed to develop and maintain the Forest Land Management Plan, compartment examination prescriptions, and other project proposals and environmental analyses. Monitors ongoing projects to evaluate the effects of management practices on the soil. Serves as a technical expert on environmental programs that involve complex and conflicting program goals and requirements.

Duty Station: The duty station for this position is at the Supervisor's Office in Montgomery. No Government Housing is available for this position.

Telework eligibility: Yes, Scheduled or Ad Hoc with Supervisor agreement and may change as conditions and pandemic phasing changes.

Hydrologist

Series: 1315

Entry Grade: GS-05/07

Full Performance Level: GS-09

Major Duties

Collects, analyzes, and interprets watershed data for input to environmental reports. Participates as a member of interdisciplinary teams working on land management planning, emergency burn rehabilitation, or other Forest projects. Conducts water

resource inventories following established procedures to assemble data bases required to support management programs and Forest planning. Surveys areas needing restoration or stabilization following disturbance by resource activities. Makes recommendations on treatment needs, estimates project costs, and prepares environmental analysis reports for restoration projects being considered for implementation.

Participates with higher level project hydrologists in the development of project proposals or descriptions, which summarize critical information relating to the objective, approach, funding, and expected results of proposed investigations.

Duty Station: Two positions are being filled: One, with duty station at the Supervisor's Office in Montgomery; a second with Duty Station, Double Springs, AL, serving Bankhead National Forest. No Government Housing is available for these positions.

Telework eligibility: Yes, Scheduled or Ad Hoc with Supervisor agreement and may change as conditions and pandemic phasing changes.

Qualification Requirements for these Positions: The OPM Qualification Standards Handbook Manual is available at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/standards/group-stds/GS-PROF.asp>. Applicant must have one year of specialized experience at the next lower level. Specialized experience is that which has equipped the applicant with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled.

The Community:

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.

With close to 200, 000 people living in the City of Montgomery, and an additional 300,000 living in surrounding counties, Montgomery is not only a center of commerce but a leading cultural, medical, educational and recreational center.

Montgomery lies in the coastal plain region of central Alabama. Terrain is moderate to rolling and the city's historic section lies on the banks of the Alabama River. A network of reservoirs and waterways surround the city, and the availability of water-based recreation adds to the charm of the community. Montgomery's central location also provides easy access to other areas of interest. Major metropolitan cities such as Birmingham, Mobile, the Gulf Coast and Atlanta are within 200 miles.

The climate is warm but pleasant with an average annual temperature of 65.6 degrees. Montgomery has four seasons, although the winters are extremely mild, with the average annual snowfall at 0.3 inches. Cool, comfortable clothing is appropriate year-round, with sweaters and jackets worn during the cooler months.

A wide variety of educational opportunities are available. Montgomery is home to Alabama State University, Auburn University at Montgomery, Faulkner University, Huntingdon College, Southern Christian University, and Troy State University at Montgomery. There are two technical colleges and 58 public schools in the county, in addition to numerous private schools and academies.

Cultural opportunities include the historic State Capital and an opportunity to view government activities. Montgomery is home to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Faulkner University and Auburn University at Montgomery also offer public theater. The historic Rosa Parks Museum is one of a variety of museums and cultural sites throughout the city.

Montgomery serves as the medical center for central Alabama and is home to three community hospitals, a Veterans Administration hospital, a mental hospital, a U.S. Air Force Regional hospital, and a rehabilitation center. In addition, there are several walk-in clinics throughout the city.

Montgomery is an especially attractive large city for those who enjoy sports and the outdoors. The city has more than 80 parks that offer a variety of leisure time facilities and sporting activities for youth and adults. Those activities include golf, tennis, softball, baseball, and soccer. The city is called home by the Montgomery Biscuits, a minor league baseball team, and the State of Alabama Park system has established two "Robert Trent Jones Golf Tour" courses within the general metropolitan area. Nearby lakes, rivers, State wildlife management areas and the Tuskegee National Forest offer boating, fishing, and hunting opportunities. Both the Gulf coast and the mountains on north Alabama are within easy travel distance and complete the range of recreational opportunities.

There are numerous churches in the area representing a wide range of religions. Plenty of nice homes are available with high quality three-to-four-bedroom houses. The price of the houses in Montgomery and surrounding counties could range from \$90,000 to \$300,000 or more, depending on the location. Rental houses and apartments are available.

DOUBLE SPRINGS, ALABAMA.

Double Springs is a small community and is the county seat of Winston County. The population of Winston County is about 25,000. Cities that are within an hour's drive include Moulton, Jasper, Haleyville, Cullman, Hartselle, Decatur, Madison and the outskirts of Huntsville and Birmingham.

The climate is warm with an average annual temperature of 66 degrees. Double Springs has four seasons, although the winters are extremely mild, with the average snowfall at 0.3 inches.

A variety of educational opportunities are available. Elementary and high schools (K-12) and private daycare facilities are available. Higher education is available at Northwest Shoals Community College in the nearby town of Phil Campbell and Beville State Community College in Jasper. Alabama A&M University, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Miles College and Birmingham-Southern, and other major colleges are within commuting distance, approximately 70 miles from Double Springs.

There is one family physician and a medical clinic in Double Springs. Full medical services and specialists are in Birmingham and Huntsville. Full dental services are available in Haleyville, Moulton and Jasper.

The Bankhead National Forest, Lewis Smith Lake and the Sipsey Fork, a wild and scenic river, offer a variety of recreation opportunities including swimming, boating, canoeing, fishing, water skiing, camping, hiking, hunting (deer, turkey, small game), developed and primitive recreation opportunities, horse-back riding and shooting and archery ranges. The surrounding communities offer tennis, golf, bowling, roller skating, and little league baseball as well as model airplane facilities. There are movie theaters, a variety of restaurants, local community centers and cable/ satellite television services available.

There are numerous churches in the area representing a wide range of religions.

Plenty of two or more-bedroom homes are available within the commuting area. The price of the houses in the surrounding area could range from \$90,000 to \$300,000 or more, depending on the location. Rental houses and apartments are also available in surrounding communities.

“The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool and to establish the appropriate recruitment method (e.g., service-wide, region-wide government-wide, or DEMO). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination. 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, audiotope, 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.”

Contact information: Anyone interested in further information is advised to complete the attached Outreach Response Form by January 23, 2024. Indicate your interest, and in which position being Outreached, and send to Dagmar Thurmond, Staff Officer for Natural Resources and Planning (ph. 334-241-8148) or dagmar.thurmond@usda.gov.

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NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

"Great Escapes to Nature"

Outreach Announcement
(4 Positions – Botanist, Montgomery-Hydrologist, Double Springs-Hydrologist, Montgomery and Soil Scientist, Montgomery)

National Forests in Alabama
USDA Forest Service, Southern Region
National Forests in Alabama
Montgomery, AL
www.fs.usda.gov/alabama

Personal Information

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Current Series and Grade: _____

Current federal employee? yes _____ no _____

If yes, current agency and location: _____

Type of appointment: permanent _____ temporary _____ term _____
vra _____ pwd _____ other _____

How did you hear about the position? _____

In which of the four positions are you interested? One or More?

If you are not a current federal employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities:

- ☐ Individuals with Disabilities (Schedule A)
- ☐ Former Peace Corps Volunteer
- ☐ Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 (VEOA)
- ☐ Veterans Recruitment Appointment (VRA)
- ☐ 30 Percent or More Disabled Veterans
- ☐ Other _____

Thank you for your interest!

Please return your completed form on or before COB January 23, 2024, via e-mail to Dagmar Thurmond at: Dagmar.thurmond@usda.gov

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