



Animal and Plant Health  
Inspection Service

Wildlife Services

Virginia Program

SE District James R.  
Powell  
1548A Holland Rd. Ste.  
100  
Suffolk, VA 23434

O: 757.925.4391  
C: 757.377.0490

## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **USDA, APHIS, WILDLIFE SERVICES**

**Position Title, Series, Grade:**

Biological Science Technician (Wildlife), GS-0404- 4/5/6

\*GS Locality Pay Tables can be accessed at:

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2016/general-schedule/>

**Promotion Potential:** GS-6

**Location of Position:** Newport News, Virginia.

**Closing date:** By September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 **8:00PM EST**

The position will be a GS-0404- 4/5/6, thirteen-month term appointment. This position may be extended up to a total of 4 years.

- 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>
- DD-214 (Member 4 copy) and/or VA letter required for applicable Veteran preference
- The OF-306 form may be obtained from address listed, or downloaded from <http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/of.asp>

**How to Apply:**

If you are a currently employed federal employee, include a copy of the most recent performance appraisal or a statement that the rating is at least Fully Successful and the date of the rating. Additional materials not listed above (i.e., position descriptions, training certificates, etc.) may not be considered. Applicants who do not submit the required items may not be considered. Interested individuals should send a resume, an OF-306 form, supplemental experience document (\*see below) and transcripts (if applicable) to:

**Contact Office:**

**James R. Powell SE District Supervisor USDA Wildlife Services Virginia**  
**1548A Holland Rd., Ste. 100 Suffolk, VA 23434**  
[james.r.powell@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:james.r.powell@aphis.usda.gov)

**Duties:**

This position is located in the Virginia Wildlife Services (WS) Program, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The incumbent will be required to perform a variety of tasks requiring a general knowledge of biology, population ecology as it pertains to depredating species management, with special emphasis on nutria, beaver, gulls, geese, and feral pigeons; agriculture, natural resource, and property damage management; and wildlife damage management. The incumbent will perform some or all of the following in support of the WS program.

- Incumbent provides technical assistance and conducts wildlife damage management activities in an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to prevent or reduce economic loss to property and agriculture or to protect human health and safety.
- Incumbent will be required to be familiar with and to use various devices, tools, firearms, toxicants, and related equipment used in wildlife damage management.
- Incumbent will be expected to be able to identify damage from wildlife species as it pertains to airports, and the incumbent will be expected to assist in the implementation of appropriate corrective action, if warranted.
- Incumbent will keep accurate written records of their activities for the cooperator and Wildlife Services program using prescribed formats and procedures.
- Incumbent presents program information and conducts training for various groups, including airport organizations, educational institutions, industry groups, and state extension programs.
- Incumbent prepares and submits routine and special reports regarding daily, weekly, or monthly activities, observations, and events.
- Incumbent identifies wildlife damage and animal sign of damaging species and non-target species and implement appropriate species-selective management actions.

**Qualifications:**

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-4 Grade Level:**

Applicants must have 6 months of general experience and 6 months of specialized experience (equivalent to the GS-3 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors that demonstrates:

- Experience in the use of Wildlife damage control techniques (including, but not limited to traps, snares, firearms, attractant baits) to alleviate damages caused by aquatic rodents, predators, birds or other animal.
- Experience in meeting and communicating with cooperators, stakeholders or other individuals and groups.
- Experience or training on the control methods, procedures, technical aspects and objectives used for wildlife damage management.

**OR**

Successful completion of 2 years of study that included at least 12 semester hours in any combination of courses such as scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics with at least 6 semester hours in wildlife.

**For The GS-5 Grade Level:**

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower level that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors which demonstrate:

- Experience identifying North American wildlife species using field identification guides, expertise and related methods in support of wildlife damage management efforts.
- Experience safely and effectively using firearms, traps, snares, pesticides, immobilizing drugs, pyrotechnics, electronic harassment devices, and other non-lethal control tools to provide wildlife damage management to cooperators.
- Experience in the principles of wildlife ecology and management to support the goals of Wildlife Services.

**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 courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics with at least 6 semester hours in wildlife. Equivalent combinations of education and experience are qualifying for this grade level.

**For The GS-6 Level:**

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower level that may have been obtained in the private or a public (local, county, state, Federal) sector which demonstrates:

- Experience utilizing skills and knowledge of human-wildlife conflicts and principles of wildlife damage management to reduce damages and threats to agricultures, natural resources and human health and safety hazards.
- Experience in the requirements of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Federal Air Regulations in support of the USDA Wildlife Services mission statement.
- Experience selecting the appropriate wildlife damage management strategies, techniques, and tools and applying them to specific situations.

## OR

Successful completion of 1 year of graduate education (18 semester hours) in entomology, botany, and agriculture or a closely related field of study. Equivalent combinations of education and experience are qualifying for this grade level. Equivalent combinations of education and experience are qualifying for this 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.

*Candidates will be considered without discrimination for any non-merit reasons such as race, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, politics, disability, age, or membership to non-membership in an employee organization.*

### **Special Conditions:**

- **As a condition of employment, satisfactory completion and favorable adjudication of a background investigation and/or fingerprint check may be required for this position.**
- Selectee must qualify in the use of firearms after appointment and will be required to carry and use firearms in the performance of the duties of this position.
- Employees required to carry and use firearms in the performance of their duties must pass a pre-employment drug screening and will be subject to random screening thereafter.
- Obtains and maintains the state Restricted-Use Pesticide Applicator license through completion of necessary Certified Applicators courses and/or examinations within four months after appointment to the position.
- To fulfill field or laboratory requirements in this position, proof of specific vaccinations,

including boosters may be required as a condition of employment.

- Work is performed in both office and field locations; safety precautions are necessary and protective clothing/equipment are required.
- There is regular and recurring exposure to moderate risk and discomfort, such as adverse weather conditions and noisy environments. Work requires physical exertion, such as walking over rough or uneven surfaces, lifting heavy objects up to and over 50 pounds, bending, pulling, crouching, stooping, climbing, and stretching; must be physically able to move and build traps made from livestock fencing materials and to move heavy carcasses (>100 lbs); must be able to walk and wade through soft mud in aquatic environments and physically remove beaver dams; must be comfortable or able to work at heights greater than 50 feet above ground level.
- Ability and willingness to travel (within State) occasionally is required.

**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 station 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.

#### **\*Supplemental Experience**

The following questions are to be answered on a separate sheet of paper.

1: **ABILITY TO MANAGE WILDLIFE DAMAGE:** Describe your work experience planning, organizing, coordinating and conducting an operation to manage wildlife damage to natural resources or human economic interests, health, and safety.

2: **ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY WORK WITH CO-WORKERS AND THOSE OUTSIDE OF THE ORGANIZATION:** Describe your experience in dealing with others. Have you had to negotiate issues or handle controversial matters? Describe.

3: **ABILITY TO WORK WITH E-MAIL, MICROSOFT WORD, MICROSOFT EXCEL AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) SOFTWARE:** What experience do you have with Microsoft Excel databases? What experience do you have with GIS software?

NOTE: False statements on any part of the applications or accompanying forms or sheets may be cause for disqualification or later removal from the position.

Interested individuals may contact Wildlife Services for more information at:

**Newport News Area**

**Wildlife Specialist**

**757.925.4391**

**[james.r.powell@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:james.r.powell@aphis.usda.gov)**