

**Wildlife Biologist,
WG-0486-5/7, FPL 11
Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
Los Fresnos, Texas**



Ocelot

Here is your opportunity to live and work in sunny South Texas on one of the most biologically diverse refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System: the nearly 100,000-acre Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. We are looking for someone to serve as the Wildlife Biologist for the Refuge; a person excited to work in the outdoors, manage and restore wetlands, and protect habitat for priority species on FWS managed lands in South Texas. The following vacancy announcement will close on Dec 13, 2016; therefore, don't delay if you are interested, or know someone that may be interested in this position.

Vacancy Announcement:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/458834000/>
(merit promotion)

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/458836200/>
(Delegated examining - open to all U.S. Citizens)

Note: Permanent Change of Station (PCS) entitlements are not available for this position. This position, is advertised at the GS-05/07 grade level (FPL- GS-11), is open to the general public and to merit promotion candidates . For more information on job requirements, eligibility, or application procedures, please contact Monica A. Salazar, Phone: (505)248-6440, MONICA_SALAZAR@FWS.GOV.

If you would like more information about this position, please contact Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager (956-748-3607 x104).

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and the South Texas Refuge Complex:

The ~100,000-acre Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is part of the South Texas Refuge Complex (STRC), which is located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of southern Texas along the international border with Mexico. The refuge complex is also comprised of two other refuges: (1) Santa Ana NWR, 2,088 acres, "The Jewel" of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and (2) Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, over 90,000 acres, "The Wildlife Corridor" refuge. The Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge is comprised of four main Units: (1) Laguna Atascosa Unit, 45,190 acres, (2) Bahia Grande Unit, 21,760 acres, (3) South Padre Island Unit, 24,800, and (4) Coastal Corridor Unit, ~7,000 acres. This position will be located at Laguna Atascosa NWR, which has its headquarters office located about 15 miles east of Rio Hondo, Texas. The refuge has a large volunteer program and an active Friends group that supports all refuge programs, operates the refuge book store, and hosts the annual Ocelot

Conservation Festival, which raises funds that contribute to research and conservation to benefit the endangered ocelot.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley of southern Texas includes subtropical, temperate, desert, and coastal habitats and world class birding opportunities. All of these habitats can be found on the three refuges in the STRC. The area has a 365-day growing season, mild winters, and hot, humid summers that are somewhat tempered by sea breezes off the Gulf of Mexico. Major cities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley include McAllen/Edinburg metropolitan area (180,000 pop.), Brownsville (140,000 pop.), and Harlingen (90,000 pop.). Schools and shopping are equivalent to what is found in other Texas metropolitan areas of similar size. South Padre Island's sunny beaches and saltwater fishing are about a 90-minute drive from the McAllen/Edinburg area, and less than 45 minutes from Brownsville or Harlingen. Shopping in Mexico is just across the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo River in the Mexican cities of Matamoros (750,000 pop.), Progreso, and Reynosa (1.2 million pop.). The Lower Rio Grande Valley boast two 4-year universities (University of Texas at Brownsville and University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg), a community college (South Texas College in McAllen and Weslaco), and a 4-year state technical college (Texas State Technical College in Harlingen). Refuge housing may be available, but it is not guaranteed. However, housing costs and the cost of living in the Lower Rio Grande Valley are well below national averages. South Texas is a very affordable place to live; it has a rich and vibrant culture; and Texas does not have a state income tax!



Aplomado falcon

About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System:

The USFWS manages the 150 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of more than 560 National Wildlife Refuges and thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. Under the Fisheries program we also operate 70 National Fish Hatcheries, 65 fishery resource offices and 86 ecological services field stations.

The vast majority of fish and wildlife habitat is on non-Federal lands. Voluntary habitat protection and restoration programs like the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the Coastal Program and other partnership programs are the primary ways we deliver habitat conservation on public and private lands.

The Service employs approximately 9,000 people at facilities across the U.S. The Service is a decentralized organization with a headquarters office in Washington, D.C., with regional and field offices across the country. Our organizational chart shows structure and also provides information on senior management. Please visit this website for more information: https://www.fws.gov/help/about_us.html