



United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

Virginia Program

Northeast District
13827
Londonderry Ct.
Woodbridge, VA
22193
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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA, APHIS, WILDLIFE SERVICES

Position Title, Series, Grade:

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

*GS Locality Pay Tables can be accessed at:
<https://www.federalpay.org/gs/2017/virginia>

Promotion Potential: GS-6

Location of Position: Prince William County, Virginia.

Closing date: By December 23, 2016 **5:00PM EST**

The position will be a GS-0404-5/6, 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 and transcripts (if applicable) to:

Contact Office:

Dage C. Blixt, NE District Supervisor
USDA Wildlife Services Virginia
13827 Londonderry Ct.
Woodbridge, VA 22193
Dage.c.blixt@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 bird harassment/dispersals at landfills, beaver, gulls, geese, vultures, and feral pigeons. The incumbent will conduct wildlife damage management activities to reduce impacts to agriculture, natural resources, property, and human safety. The incumbent will perform some or all of the following in support of the WS program.

- Identify wildlife damage and animal sign of damaging species and non-target species and implement appropriate species-selective management actions.
- May negotiate or participate in the negotiation of cooperative agreements/funds with program cooperators.
- Conduct wildlife surveys to determine wildlife activity and abundance.
- Keep accurate records on work activities for the cooperator and WS program using prescribed formats and procedures, and prepare/submit reports and summaries related to job activities and accomplishments.
- Report work activities to project supervisor at specified time frame.
- Participate in group meetings and discussions.
- Maintain, repair and ensure the safekeeping of tools, supplies, equipment, and vehicles.
- Participate in public outreach events to further the goals of the WS program.
- Work cooperatively with coworkers to support program goals and objectives.
- Operate and maintain firearms, trucks, motorized boats, airboats, canoes, ATVs, and other specialty equipment safely and in accordance with standard operating procedures.
- Participate in other wildlife damage management programs as directed by the supervisor.
- May be required to serve as an instructor and conduct training for cooperators or other interested groups on WS control methods, procedures, and program objectives. This may include preliminary instruction and training of new WS personnel on WS equipment and control methods, reporting procedures, field responsibilities, and other technical aspects of the program, as well as educational presentations to groups. Incumbent may represent WS at local meetings, conferences, and workshops regarding issues with the Virginia Wildlife Services program.
- Often work alone in the field as needed, often in urban areas and occasionally in remote areas, from boats or ATV's, and in extreme weather.

Qualifications Required:

Applicants can qualify by meeting the experience or education requirements specified below:

Specialized experience at the GS-5 Grade Level:

Applicants must have 1 year of specialized experience equivalent in level of difficulty and responsibility to the next lower level (GS-4) in the Federal service. This experience may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors.

Examples of qualifying experience include, but are not limited to:

- Using damage control techniques, including, but not limited to, aquatic rodent control techniques utilizing traps and snares and migratory bird damage management techniques, including but not limited to, pyrotechnics, scare devices, and other various techniques as required.
- Using specialty equipment such as firearms, ATV's, watercraft, trucks, etc.
- Preparing reports regarding activities, observations, events, and other relevant data collected. Input operations data into established and custom databases, such as the Wildlife Services' Management Information System.
- Training on the control methods, procedures, technical aspects, and objectives used for wildlife damage management.
- Inspecting and surveying areas with the ability to recognize various wildlife species.
- Meeting and communicating with individuals or groups.
- Recognizing habits, characteristics, and habitats occupied by a variety of avian and mammalian wildlife species.
- Obtaining necessary training and certificates in order to conduct assigned work.

OR

Education substitution at the GS-5 Level:

GS-5: A full four-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. At least 6 semester hours of courses must have been in wildlife biology, ecology, or management.

Specialized Experience at the GS-6 Level:

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience in level of difficulty and responsibility to the next lower level (GS-5) in the Federal service that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sector which demonstrates:

- Technical experience trapping various species in urban, suburban and rural environments, including but not limited to feral swine, furbearers, small mammals, and birds and familiarity using various traps to capture these animals and with little or no direction or supervision. Experience surveying areas to determine species and methods of management;
- Experience using both lethal and nonlethal management techniques to reduce bird and mammal damage, to include use of trapping devices, harassment devices, and barriers;
- Proficiency and safety in using a variety of firearms to remove damaging wildlife when necessary. Experience in using and maintaining specialty equipment such as boats, ATV's, trucks;
- Experience maintaining contacts and developing working relationships with various parties, including but not limited to farmers, businesses, land owners, airports, natural resources, pest management, civil engineering, and other federal agencies and presenting plans of action and results to groups.
- Experience collecting scientific data and utilizing various computer software programs to manage, analyze and present the data that would include; word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation and GIS software;

OR

Completion of at least 18 semester hours of graduate level education that is directly related to this position.

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 comfortable or able to work at heights greater than 50 feet above ground level.
- Physical ability and dexterity are required.
- Ability and willingness to travel (within State) frequently 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.

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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 **Dage C. Blixt** for more information at:

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Northeastern District
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