

UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
Job Announcement
(An Equal Opportunity Employer)

POSITION TITLE, SERIES, GRADE:

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

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: GS-5

LOCATION OF POSITION(S):

Bamberg County – 1 position;
Dorchester County, South Carolina – 1 position;
Hampton County, South Carolina – 1 position;
Williamsburg County, South Carolina – 1 position;
Colleton/Jasper Counties, South Carolina – 1 position;

(Relocation costs will not be paid; specify which position(s) you are applying for)

CLOSING DATE: June 09, 2017

The position will be a GS-0404-4/5, 13-month term appointment. Work schedule will be seasonal. Starting dates are negotiable but prefer to start as soon as possible.

- 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. 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.
- The OF-306 form may be obtained from address listed, or downloaded from <http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/of.asp>

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants who do not submit the required items may not be considered. 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, DD-214 or VA letters (if applicable), an OF-306, transcripts (if applying based on education requirements listed below), and answer the **Supplemental Experience** questions listed at the bottom of this announcement to:

CONTACT OFFICE: USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
400 Northeast Drive, Suite L
Columbia, SC 29203
Attn: Robert Byrd, District Supervisor
(803) 786-9455
robert.w.byrd@aphis.usda.gov

Applicants who do not submit the required items may not be considered. Applications with all supporting documents must be submitted to the contact office and must be **POSTMARKED** by the **CLOSING DATE** of this announcement.

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.

Carrying a firearm is a condition of Employment – In the passing of the *Lautenberg Amendment*, Congress passed legislation which prohibits anyone who has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing a firearm or ammunition. If selected you will be required to sign the form, “Inquiry for Positions Requiring Possession of Firearms,” certifying that you meet this criteria.

DUTIES

This position is located in the Wildlife Services (WS) Program, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The assignment involves the performance of a wide range of duties related to management of wildlife damage, but primary duties will be alleviating beaver problems in assigned counties.

The assignment involves working closely with state and county cooperators and other private landholders and state, county, and federal officials in developing and conducting wildlife damage management activities. Trapping and removing nuisance beaver causing property damage and safety concerns is an important part of the program. Effective communication skills with the public are required through meetings, workshops, and the news media.

Incumbent will be required to be familiar with and know how to use various devices, chemicals, tools, firearms and related equipment utilized in animal and bird damage control operations.

Prepares and submits routine and special reports regarding daily, weekly or monthly activities, observations, events and other relevant data collected.

Must demonstrate a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices, and equipment.

Must have a valid State Motor Vehicle Operator's or Commercial License, as appropriate. Operation of Government-owned or leased vehicles is required.

The incumbent will be required to work in office and in outdoor conditions. Temperature, weather and noise extremes will be encountered in the performance of the outdoor work, which is often performed in remote and primitive areas. The terrain may be uneven, rocky, or in vegetation. There may be exposure to extremes of weather and temperature. The incumbent is expected to conduct duties in a safe and orderly manner, so as not to endanger self, fellow workers, or property within which entrusted.

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

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE AT THE GS-4 GRADE LEVEL:

Applicant must have 6 months of general experience and 6 months of specialized experience to perform the work of the position. 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:

- Experience using damage control techniques (including, but not limited to) predator, rodent and bird control toxicants, techniques, traps, snares and formulating scents and baits;
- Prepare reports regarding activities, observations, events, and other relevant data collected;
- Train on the control methods, procedures, technical aspects, and objectives used for wildlife damage control;
- Inspect and survey areas with the ability to recognize various wildlife;
- Meeting and communicating with individuals or groups; and
- Recognize habits, characteristics, and habitats occupied by a variety of avian and mammalian wildlife species.

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 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:

- Technical experience trapping various species in urban, suburban and rural environments, including but not limited to furbearers, small mammals, and birds and familiarity using various control techniques 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;
 - Prepare reports regarding activities, observations, events, and other relevant data collected
 - Train on the control methods, procedures, technical aspects, and objectives used for wildlife damage control
 - Inspect and survey areas with the ability to recognize various wildlife
 - Meeting and communicating with individuals or groups
 - Recognize habits, characteristics, and habitats occupied by a variety of avian and mammalian wildlife species

OR

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 directly related to the position to be filled.

EDUCATION SUBSTITUTION AT THE GS-5 GRADE LEVEL:

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 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.

OR

COMBINATION OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE AT THE GS-4/5 GRADE LEVEL:

Equivalent combinations of successful completed education and experience may be used to meet the total qualification requirements. The total percentage must equal at least 100 percent to qualify.

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.

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. Keep responses to no more than 1-page per question. Failure to answer the questions will exclude you from consideration.

1. **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.
2. **ABILITY TO WORK WITH E-MAIL, MICROSOFT WORD, AND MICROSOFT EXCEL:** What experience do you have using computers? What experience do you have with e-mail, Microsoft Word and Excel databases?

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.