Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service - Moiese, MT

You too can make a difference in our world. The work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is meaningful and varied. Want to know more about what it is like to work for us? Watch these short podcasts entitled Meet Your New Boss and Diversity is our Strength.

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: All U.S. Citizens

The employee in this position serves as a permanent, full-time Fish and Wildlife Biologist, GS-401-09 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6, Refuges, National Bison Range, located in Moiese, Montana. 

TRAVEL REQUIRED
Occasional Travel
Within the Refuge

RELOCATION AUTHORIZED
No

KEY REQUIREMENTS
U.S. citizenship required
Completion of a one-year probationary period may be required
Valid state driver's license required

Official US Fish and Wildlife Service uniform required

DUTIES: Back to top
Plans and conducts investigations of moderate complexity to determine the impact of various land and water development projects upon the fish and wildlife resources and to ensure legal standards and other requirements are met and implemented in a manner most beneficial to fish and/or wildlife resources.

Conducts private land habitat restorations including landowner contacts, GIS/GPS mapping surveying, staking, construction monitoring, seeding, etc., and prepares management plans for restored areas.

Assists in record keeping, handling, trapping, vaccinating, tagging and moving of bison, elk, and other wildlife species. Other specific duties involved assisting in or conducting waterfowl surveys, vegetation surveys, neotropical migratory bird surveys, and elk and deer management.

Responds to written, telephone and in-person inquiries from the public and the news media, obtaining and providing requested information within established guidelines.

Performs data analysis and writes reports to evaluate findings and make board recommendations.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work requires both office and outdoor work. Temperature and weather extremes may be encountered in the performance of outdoor work. The work requires some physical exertion such as walking over wet, rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces; bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching or similar activities.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: Back to top

In addition to meeting the “Specialized Experience Requirements” listed below, applicants must meet the education requirements as described under “Basic Education Requirements.”

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:
GS-09: One year of progressively responsible experience equivalent to at least the GS-07 grade level demonstrated by professional and scientific work in the management, conservation or protection of wildlife including experience assisting with the design and implementation of habitat restoration and enhancement projects; evaluating and monitoring the limiting factors of fish and wildlife species population; developing Geographic Information System maps and other scientific data for on-the-ground habitat improvement projects.

SUBSTITUTION OF EDUCATION FOR SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE:
GS-09: Successful completion of 2 full years of progressively higher level graduate education from an accredited college or university leading to a master’s degree or equivalent graduate degree directly
related to the position being filled.

Equivalent combinations of education and experience are qualifying which when combined meets 100% of the specialized experience requirements.

If substituting education for the Specialized Experience requirement, you MUST submit all school transcripts. Only official or unofficial transcripts will be accepted. Failure to submit transcripts that verify qualifying education by the closing date of the announcement will result in disqualification from further consideration.

**BASIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENT:**
A. Successful completion of a full 4 year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's degree or higher degree in biological science, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position.

OR

B. Combination of education from an accredited college or university and experience -- courses equivalent to a major, as shown in "A" above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

This position requires completion of the specific course of study as reflected above. ALL APPLICANTS, including those who currently, or have previously, occupied a position in this job series, MUST submit a copy of their transcripts (official or unofficial) to verify that they meet these educational requirements. If you have attended more than one university/college or have completed more than one degree, you must submit documentation from each university/college. If the position being filled requires specific classes or a specific number of credits, applicants MUST ensure that the transcripts submitted verify completion of those courses or credits. Failure to submit transcripts that verify qualifying education by the closing date will result in disqualification from further consideration.

**Foreign Education:** Education completed outside the United States must have been evaluated by a private U.S. organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign educational credentials, commonly called a credential evaluation service or education that is recognized by the Secretary of Education from an accredited body. You must submit the credential evaluation with your application to have your education considered.

**NOTE:** It is the applicant's responsibility to show how he/she satisfies the course requirements. This may include providing course syllabi or an official course description, as provided by the university course catalog. If you do not provide information that clearly shows how your completed course work meets the specific course requirements above, you will be rated ineligible.

Qualification requirements must be met by the closing date of this announcement. HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED:

In addition to the Specialized Experience requirement and any applicable Basic Education requirement, the following competencies are required:

1. Knowledge of wildlife biology, ecology and habitat management; 2. Ability to implement fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects; 3. Knowledge of land use methods and policies; 4. Ability to provide construction oversight to fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects; 5. Ability to communicate orally

Applications are evaluated and rated under Category Rating and Selection procedures. Category rating combines the applicant's total experience and/or education/training into a single category. Your application will initially be rated against the criteria outlined in this announcement. Qualifying applications will then be placed into one of the following categories:


Applications in the Best Qualified category will be evaluated to ensure that the job requirements, including
Specialized Experience, Basic Education, Selective Factors, and eligibility requirements are met and supported/verified by the resume and other documents submitted. This will include a review of your resume and supporting documentation as compared to your responses to the occupational questionnaire. If, after reviewing your resume and supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and/or experience, your category placement may be adjusted to more accurately reflect your abilities.

Full-time work is generally considered to be 35 to 40 hours of work per week. Part-time experience will be credited on the basis of time actually spent in qualifying activities.

Information for Veterans: The category rating process does not add veteran's preference points but protects the rights of veterans by placing them ahead of non-preference eligibles within each category. Preference eligibles who meet qualification requirements and have a compensable service-connected disability of at least 10% will be listed in the highest quality category, except when the position being filled is scientific or professional at the GS-09 grade or higher. BENEFITS: Back to top The Federal government offers a comprehensive benefits package. This link provides an overview of the benefits currently offered to Federal employees: https://help.usajobs.gov/index.php/Pay_and_Benefits

OTHER INFORMATION:
Career Transition Assistance Programs: CTAP/ICTAP provides placement assistance for Federal employees who are surplus, displaced, or separated. If you are claiming CTAP/ICTAP eligibility, you must submit a copy of your most recent performance appraisal, proof of eligibility, and your most current SF-50 noting position, grade level, and duty location with your application. To be considered under CTAP/ICTAP, you must meet the definition of well-qualified. For this vacancy, the definition of well-qualified is placement into at least the well-qualified category. For more information on CTAP/ICTAP, visit: http://www.opm.gov/ctap/index.asp.

Male applicants who were born after 12/31/1959 must be registered or exempt from Selective Service (see www.sss.gov).

HOW TO APPLY: Back to top
All application materials and supporting documentation must be submitted and received by 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) on the closing date of the announcement in order for you to be considered for this vacancy.

To begin the process, click the Apply Online button to create an account or log in to your existing USAJOBS account. Follow the prompts to complete the Assessment Questionnaire. Please ensure you click the "Submit My Answers" button.

NOTE: To verify your application is complete, log into your USAJOBS account here: https://my.usajobs.gov/Account/Login. Select the "Application Status" link and then select the "more information" link for this position. The "Details" page will display the status of your application, the documentation received and processed, and any correspondence the agency has sent related to this application. Your uploaded documents may take several hours to clear the virus scan process.

To return to an incomplete application, log into your USAJobs account and click "Update Application" in the vacancy announcement. You must re-select your resume and/or other documents from your USAJobs account or your application will be incomplete.

To fax supporting documents you are unable to upload, complete this cover page: https://staffing.opm.gov/pdf/usascover.pdf using the following Job Opportunity Announcement number: 1360603. Fax your documents to 1-478-757-3144.

NOTE: If you applied online and your application is complete, do not fax the paper application (1203FX) as this will overwrite your prior online responses and may result in you being found ineligible.

If you cannot apply online:
1. Click the following link to view and print the assessment questionnaire View Occupational Questionnaire, and;
2. Print this 1203FX form along with your responses to the assessment questionnaire https://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/OPM1203FX.pdf, and;
3. Fax the completed 1203FX form along with any supporting documents to 1-478-757-3144. Your 1203FX will serve as a cover page for your fax transmission.

Keep a copy of your fax confirmation in the event verification is needed.

If you cannot complete the application process using one of the options identified in the "usajobs.gov - 1 day ago - save job
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