

USDA  
Forest  
Service



## Employment Information

### Important

Please follow the directions on this page carefully to apply for summer positions.  
Do not mail applications to Staff listed on the 'Staff' web page - except those specified!

### EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING FOR STREAMS AND RIPARIAN AREAS USDA FOREST SERVICE & USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Thank you for your interest in the Effectiveness Monitoring Program for Streams and Riparian Areas. At this site you will find general information about available positions, the application process, and a brief description of what you might experience this summer as a stream or vegetation technician with the project. This could be an extremely rewarding position, allowing you to learn regionally applied sampling techniques working as part of a large team, and travel extensively throughout the Western U.S.



Caption: 2007 Effectiveness Monitoring Crew at training outside Moscow, ID

## **POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Forest Service Fish & Aquatic Ecology Unit**

**Positions:** 12 botany/range (GS 4-5)  
24 fisheries/hydrology/geomorphology (GS 3-5)

**Riparian Vegetation Surveys Technicians** - This work involves vegetation data collection to determine the condition of riparian areas. You will learn a variety of sampling techniques and how to identify many riparian plant species including: sedges, grasses, forbs, willows, and other woody plants. Successful applicants will have the following:

- at least one plant taxonomy course
- experience identifying plants using dichotomous keys (such as the *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, by Hitchcock and Cronquist).

Other helpful (but not required) experience includes:

- field experience collecting vegetation data
- course work in the identification of grasses, woody plants, rangeland plants, etc.
- course work or experience in riparian ecology (highly valued).

**Stream Morphology and Habitat Technicians** - The project implements an intensive reach scale stream survey. Using one of the most rigorously tested sampling protocols available, technicians collect information on a variety of stream attributes including pool quality, channel geometry, substrate, streambank characteristics and macroinvertebrates. Your work will teach you a variety of sampling procedures and provide you with opportunities to apply them to a wide range of stream systems. Successful applicants will have the following:

- course work in natural resources
- outdoor/field experience
- an excellent attitude

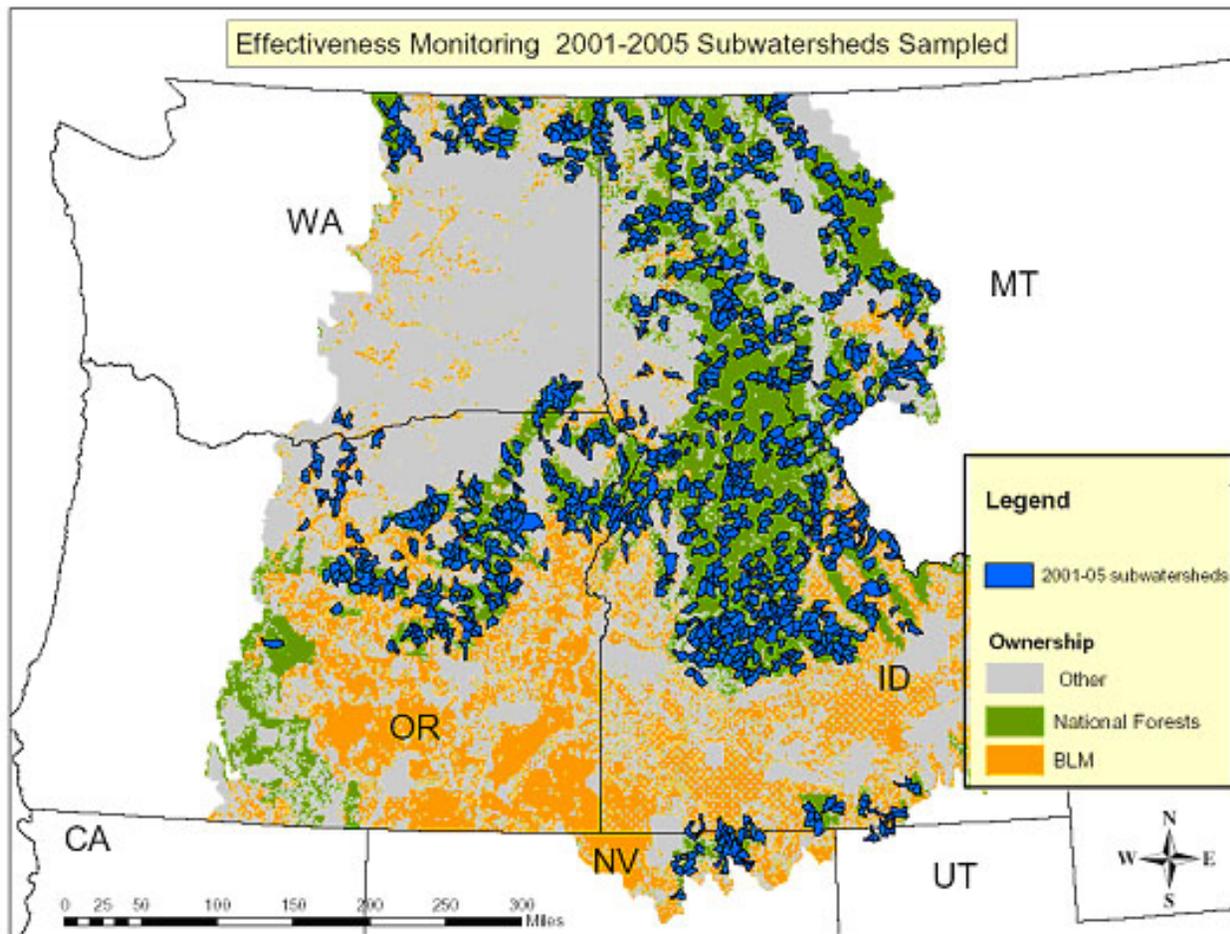
Experienced applicants can qualify for supervisory roles as leader of a 3-person crew. During the 2007 field season our positions were filled with GS-03s, 04s and 05s. Continuing work after the field season may be available to qualified individuals. This work deals mostly with summarizing data from the field season and creating reports. Further, several technicians have received graduate projects directly resulting from association with this project, and that trend should continue.

**Work Schedule:** Positions will begin on Tuesday, May 13th and extend through mid-September. We will accommodate students who need to end earlier. Work is divided into 14-day pay periods, with 8 ten-hour days on and 6 consecutive days off.

**Wages:** Grade and corresponding pay range from GS-3 (\$11.01 / hour) to GS-04 (\$12.36/ hour), GS-5 (\$13.83/ hour) for technicians. In addition, employees receive per diem of \$16 (\$128 every two weeks).

**Locations:** The Effectiveness Monitoring Program samples throughout the Upper Columbia River Basin, which includes eastern Oregon, eastern Washington, Idaho and western Montana. Crews will be stationed in one of three locations: central Oregon, western Montana or central Idaho, but will likely travel throughout the entire four-state area during the summer. We attempt to accommodate preferences for particular station locations, although the possibility of moving stations during the field season is high due to sampling priorities.

**Program Description:** This program examines status and trend in streams and riparian areas on USDA Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The program is in its eighth year, with a projected budget of \$1.5 million. During 2008 we will collect information on approximately 400



randomly selected watersheds spread throughout the study area. For more information please see our main web page at [www.fs.fed.us/biology/fishecology/emp/](http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/fishecology/emp/).

**Important:** This job requires working outside all day, every day. You will hike, work, and live outside for eight days at a time. You will camp every night when working. Forest Service bunkhouses are provided for the six days off. The program's study area includes bear and mountain lion country - using proper precautions while camping/working is necessary. While providing numerous opportunities to visit spectacular areas throughout the Northwestern US, this job will also challenge your endurance and outdoor skills. Scrapes, bruises, and blisters are all part of the job.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

**The procedure is different for Students and Non-students  
All application materials must be submitted 1 MARCH 2008.**

### STUDENTS:

If you are currently enrolled as a student during the spring quarter/semester and will be **returning to school** in the fall, send your resume, cover letter and an unofficial transcript to Annie Birnie, [abirnie@fs.fed.us](mailto:abirnie@fs.fed.us) (Stream Technicians), or Ryan Leary, [rleary@fs.fed.us](mailto:rleary@fs.fed.us) (Veg. Technicians). **Students need not apply to the OPM.**

Current students who will be graduating in Spring of 2008 (not returning to school) need to apply through AVUE (see Non-Student section).

Be sure to include:

- Full Name
- Social Security Number
- Birth date
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number
- E-mail Address

### NON-STUDENTS:

*Job Numbers listed below.*

**Stream technicians:** In addition to filing the application with OPM (directions below), please send your resume and cover letter to Annie Birnie by email (preferred), by FAX (435) 755-3563, or by mail.

**Vegetation Technicians:** In addition to filing the application with OPM (directions below), please send your resume, cover letter and unofficial transcripts to Ryan Leary by email (preferred), by FAX (435) 755-3563, or by mail.

Annie Birnie: [abirnie@fs.fed.us](mailto:abirnie@fs.fed.us)

Ryan Leary: [rleary@fs.fed.us](mailto:rleary@fs.fed.us)

Postal Address:

Forestry Sciences Lab  
860 North 1200 East  
Logan, Utah 84321

Be sure to include:

- Full Name
- Social Security Number
- Birth date
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number
- E-mail Address

To apply online, visit the Forest Service Job Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/forestservice/index.html>

- From the main page, select '**Job Openings**'.
- Select '**Centralized Nationwide Temporary Announcements**'.
- Select '**Create or Modify an Applicant Profile in Avue Digital Services**'.

We highly recommended downloading the [Applicant User Guide for Avue Digital Services](#), as the process is a bit tricky. It is important to fill out this application right the first time, as a pool of applicants can only be 'pulled' twice. OPM and Avue will confirm a successful application either by phone or e-mail.

Below is a brief description of the Avue system application process.

### ELECTRONIC APPLICATION - AVUE

1. Access the Avue website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/forests-service/index.html>
  2. Select (click on) the logo to enter the site.
    - a. Enter in '**New User Registration**' information if you have not previously. Use '**Registered User**' if you have previously entered information into AVUE.
  3. When New User Registration is complete, the site takes you to the main menu (FS badge with paths leading off of it). Select '**Create or Update My Profile**'.
    - a. Your personal information will appear. Amend anything pertinent.
    - b. Select '**Applicant Information**' on the left. A location list will appear. For this position, you need to select '**Ogden, UT**'. Select this location and then choose '**Save This Information**'.  
**This is a very important step, as the applicant pool we receive (who we can hire) must be directed to R4, Regional Office, Ogden, UT.**
  - c. '**Work History**' - Enter accordingly. For duties and accomplishments, you can cut and paste from your resume to save time.
  - d. '**Eligibilities, References, Education Background and Additional Information**' should be filled out accordingly.
  - e. '**Attach Resume and Supporting Documents**' - Follow instructions to attach your Resume and Transcripts.
4. From the main menu, select the path to '**Apply for Jobs**'. From here, just like online shopping, you can put different jobs in your cart.

Questions: The '**General Information**' path on the main menu should answer any questions.

GS Grades determine salary differences, which is dependent on an applicant's experience. You can apply for all of the positions if you would like, and the certification process will identify the Wage Grade for which you are qualified.

**Note:** On the automated Forest Service Website (AVUE), under the Biological Series (0404) use one of the following codes:

| ADS Number/USA Jobs Vacancy #        | Position Titles                          |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Fisheries jobs are listed as:</b> |  |
| DE-OCR-0404-3-GEN                    | Biological Aid, GS-03                    |
| DE-OCR-0404-4-FISH                   | Biological Technician (Fisheries), GS-04 |
| DE-OCR-0404-5-FISH                   | Biological Technician (Fisheries), GS-05 |
| <b>Botany jobs are listed as:</b>    |  |
| DE-OCR-0404-4-PLNT                   | Biological Technician (Plants), GS-04    |
| DE-OCR-0404-5-PLNT                   | Biological Technician (Plants), GS-05    |

The difference in the announcement numbers is the single digit of the GS code, corresponding to pay and experience level.

PLEASE NOTE: These are nationwide job announcements that are very general and do not include the specifics of the job duties. Please read our website thoroughly for detailed job descriptions.

**All application materials must be submitted 1 MARCH 2008.**

For more information about how to apply, contact one of the following:

Website: [www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs](http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs)

E-mail: [fsjobs@fs.fed.us](mailto:fsjobs@fs.fed.us)

Voice: (877) 813-3476

Fax: (208) 373-4285

TTY/TDD: (866) 868-8354

**Additional Information:** If you would like additional information regarding these positions or to speak with someone about what to expect as a working member, please contact Annie Birnie ([abirnie@fs.fed.us](mailto:abirnie@fs.fed.us)) or (435) 755-3595.

## **THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE SIGNING ON**

- You will be crossing/wading streams regularly. You will be in water - A LOT! You will be wet - A LOT!
- Crews often hike into remote wilderness areas, and on occasion they are flown into these areas. In such cases crew members can be a long way from cars, people, buildings, etc. for up to eight days at a time.
- Some samplings will be next to the road, while others will require long and rigorous hikes.
- You will camp every night of your eight-day hitch. Some nights will be clear, bugless and great for counting stars after a day of sampling. Others may be cold, stormy and/or mosquito filled.
- You will be working in all kinds of weather. Crews can see beautiful clear days, heavy rain and sometimes snow!
- Be prepared to see wildlife regularly. Last summer's crews saw bears, mule deer, moose, elk, red-tailed hawks, coyotes, and chinook salmon.



**Caption: Scapegoat Wilderness in Central Montana**

## WORK SCHEDULE

During each two-week pay period you will work eight consecutive ten-hour days followed by six days off (the first pay period is 10 eight-hour days). Work days are **GREEN** highlighted below on the calendar. Work days are also written as straight text after the calendars.

### May

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 11     | 12     | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| 18     | 19     | 20      | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| 25     | 26-H   | 27      | 28        | 29       | 30     | 31       |

### June

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1      | 2      | 3       | 4         | 5        | 6      | 7        |
| 8      | 9      | 10      | 11        | 12       | 13     | 14       |
| 15     | 16     | 17      | 18        | 19       | 20     | 21       |
| 22     | 23     | 24      | 25        | 26       | 27     | 28       |
| 29     | 30     |         |           |          |        |          |

### July

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        | 1       | 2         | 3        | 4-H    | 5        |
| 6      | 7      | 8       | 9         | 10       | 11     | 12       |
| 13     | 14     | 15      | 16        | 17       | 18     | 19       |
| 20     | 21     | 22      | 23        | 24       | 25     | 26       |
| 27     | 28     | 29      | 30        | 31       |        |          |

### August

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        |         |           |          | 1      | 2        |
| 3      | 4      | 5       | 6         | 7        | 8      | 9        |
| 10     | 11     | 12      | 13        | 14       | 15     | 16       |
| 17     | 18     | 19      | 20        | 21       | 22     | 23       |
| 24     | 25     | 26      | 27        | 28       | 29     | 30       |
| 31     |        |         |           |          |        |          |

### September

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        | 1-H    | 2       | 3         | 4        | 5      | 6        |
| 7      | 8      | 9       | 10        | 11       | 12     | 13       |
| 14     | 15     | 16      | 17        | 18       | 19     | 20       |
| 21     | 22     | 23      | 24        | 25       | 26     | 27       |
| 28     | 29     | 30      |           |          |        |          |

#### Work Schedule in non-calendar format:

- Work days for May: May 13 through 22, 29 through 31; May 26 is a holiday
- Work days for June: June 1 through 3; June 10 through 17; June 24 through 30;
- Work days for July: July 8 through 15; July 22 through 29; July 4 is a holiday
- Work days for August: August 5 through 12; August 19 through 26

- Work days for September: September 3 through 9; September 16 through 23; September 1 is a holiday

**Please note:**

- You will need to arrive at your duty station by the evening of May 12th.
- The work-days are shaded in green for each hitch (our work week). A hitch generally runs from Tuesday to Tuesday.
- Training will be from May 13th to May 22nd for a total of 10 days, 8-hours a day. This will be the only hitch where you will work more than 8 days.
- The hitches around Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day are only seven days because these are paid holidays.
- The last work day for those going back to school will be August 12. Everyone else will finish on September 9 with 5-6 positions continuing until September 23.
- You are required to work all hitches in their entirety unless otherwise approved of by a supervisor prior to the field season.

**WHAT TO BRING**

**Following are some suggestions of what to bring with you this summer. Basically, you need those things that will make it comfortable for you to backpack for periods of time, car camp extensively, and recreate six days out of fourteen days.**

**Important to Have:**

- Warm Sleeping Bag (20° F works well.)
- Sleeping Pad
- Sun Hat/Sunglasses
- Cold Weather and Rain Gear
- Waterproof Jacket/Pants
- Long Pants
- Sweaters/Long-sleeve Shirts
- Warm Hat, Gloves
- Thermal Wear
- Warm Weather Clothes
- Hiking Boots (broken in and comfortable) / Shoes
- Day Pack
- Other Personal Gear
- Water Bottles

**Nice to Have:**

- Personal Backpack
- Personal Tent
- Flashlight
- Music
- Good books to read fireside
- Fishing gear, hacky-sacks, etc. for your off-time

**Provided:** While you are working we provide most camping equipment and all work gear, including:

- Waders and Wading Boots
- 3 backpacks per crew for work gear
- All sampling equipment
- Vehicles
- Cook kits and stoves
- Coolers/Water jugs
- One tent per crew
- Camp tables/chairs



Caption: Eagle Cap Wilderness in Eastern Oregon