

## **OUTREACH**

### **DISPERSED RECREATION TECHNICIAN ON THE MOUNT ROGERS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA GS-0462-4/5**

USDA Forest Service  
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests  
3714 Highway Sixteen  
Marion, Virginia 24354  
(276) 783-5196 or 1-800-628-7202



Wilburn Ridge

**MAJOR DUTIES OF POSITION:** Mount Rogers NRA plans to soon advertise a position for a Recreation Technician with responsibilities in dispersed recreation, primarily trails and wilderness.

The person in this position must be able to follow instructions and direction as provided by his/her supervisor and to relay that direction to appropriate persons as necessary. Employee must follow safe work methods and practices and be able to read and follow a Job Hazard Analysis. Duties will include the following: construction/reconstruction and rehabilitation/relocation of trails, including trails within wilderness areas. This also includes assisting with trail condition assessments, campsite inventories, trail structure inspections, and maintenance of sign inventories.

Incumbent will work with various staff, volunteers and partners of Mount Rogers NRA.

Incumbent will be required to interact with the public in a variety of dispersed recreation sites; therefore an outgoing and friendly, yet firm and professional demeanor is required. Ability to clearly communicate directions, rules and regulations and adequately answer visitor questions is critical. Other duties may include assisting with the Mount Rogers NRA prescribed fire program.

Employee will report problems and potential problems and bring ideas for improving efficiency to the attention of the Recreation Program Manager.

This position can be physically challenging, as it involves using a variety of hand tools such as chainsaws and crosscut saws. This employee will also be expected to perform wildfire suppression and/or prescribed fire support as directed within training and physical capabilities.

Salary range is from \$23,412 to \$34,052. This position is non-exempt and is covered by the bargaining unit.

**UNIT DESCRIPTION:** Located in southwest Virginia, the Mount Rogers NRA is a truly unique landscape within the Blue Ridge and middle Appalachian mountain ranges. The NRA administers 140,000 acres of National Forest focused around Mount Rogers, the highest peak in the state. The area also features the highest auto road in the state, which leads to the summit of Whitetop Mountain, the second highest peak.

Developed recreation includes 11 campgrounds (7 with day use areas), one picnic area, two rental cabins, four staffed visitor centers, a museum, and a scenic byway. There are three designated

Wildernesses containing over 13,000 acres. The primary attraction of Mount Rogers NRA is the Crest Zone, also known as the High Country, which is a 20,000-acre area featuring elevations over 4,000 feet, large rock formations, wild ponies, and a mixture of mountain balds and spruce-fir forests. The Mount Rogers NRA provides over 400 miles of system trails for hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers and limited mileage for off-road motorcycles. Ten trail shelters are provided for overnight use of trail visitors. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail, and the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail are the most popular of the trails within the NRA.

Mount Rogers NRA includes lands in Smyth, Washington, Grayson, Carroll and Wythe Counties. Three state parks lie adjacent to the Mount Rogers NRA: Hungry Mother, New River Trail and Grayson Highlands State Parks. The multiple recreation providers provide vast outdoor opportunities. Annual nearby festivals include the Highlands Festival, Fiddler's Convention, Hungry Mother Arts and Crafts Festival, and many others. In addition to the more than 500 miles of trails offered by the NRA and State Parks, the area boasts hundreds of miles of trout fishing streams, as well as the warm temperature fisheries of the three forks of the Holston River and the nearby Holston Lake. Game in the area includes whitetail deer, bear, turkey and grouse.

For more information about Mount Rogers NRA, check our website at [www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/gwj/mr](http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/gwj/mr).

**CLIMATE:** The climate is considered moderate with an average winter temperature of 36 degrees, but it is not uncommon for the temperature to occasionally dip into the teens or single digit range. Summer temperatures range from 59-90 with the average of about 75 degrees. Annual precipitation averages approximately 41 inches with about 20" of snow.

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION:** The duty station is located in Sugar Grove, Virginia, in Smyth County. Sugar Grove is a rural community of less than 800 people. The median age is 35 and the median household income is \$25,500. The population is approximately 93% white, 5% African American, 0.5% Hispanic and 1.5% mixed race. Marion, the County Seat, has a population of about 6,500 and Smyth County has a total population of about 33,000. Sugar Grove offers a Post Office, combined school (elementary and middle), several gas stations with convenience stores, a restaurant, several automotive repair businesses, a car wash, and a lumber mill. The school offers a walking track. Most residents work outside of the community, in Marion or Independence.

Marion, which lies approximately 8 miles north of Sugar Grove, is the closest full-service town. In terms of medical services, it has numerous physicians and dentists, as well as a 170-bed hospital. All kinds of professional services are provided in Marion such as accountants and tax preparers, financial and investment advisors, attorneys, architects, Internet and computer services, and many more. There is an elementary, primary, middle and high school located in Marion, as well as a regional public library. Marion offers a first-rate wellness center with gym, indoor pool, racquetball courts and exercise rooms. Marion also has a community outdoor pool; community parks with play equipment, county sports leagues, bowling, miniature golf, batting cage, and drive-in theater. Limited restaurants in the area offer American, Mexican, Chinese and Italian cuisine, and all of the major fast food chains have franchises located in Marion. A major discount store is located in Marion as well as multiple grocery, pharmacy, lumber, and plumbing/electrical stores. Within 40 miles of Sugar Grove are the larger towns of Abingdon to the southwest and Wytheville to the northeast that offer a larger variety of shopping, restaurants, movie theaters, and parks. Additional information on Smyth County may be found on-line at [www.smythcounty.org](http://www.smythcounty.org),

[www.swanva.net](http://www.swanva.net) and [www.smythchamber.org](http://www.smythchamber.org) including its history, the local economy, and school information and employment opportunities.

**MOUNT ROGERS NRA WORK ENVIRONMENT:** On a National Forest with a reputation for outstanding accomplishments and employees, Mount Rogers NRA offers a workplace that meets or exceeds that standard. We take great pride in the quality of work that has been accomplished throughout the history of the NRA and that continues today, due to the fine craftsmanship, creativity, and dedication that our employees and volunteers bring to their work. There is a high level of respect and expectation for job performance from supervisors and fellow employees, and for delivery of outstanding customer services to NRA visitors and surrounding communities and partners. If you are someone who thrives in a dynamic, challenging, and enjoyable work environment, and who can offer new ideas and skills yourself, please respond to this outreach!

**ADVERTISEMENT:** For more information, please contact Ginny Williams, Recreation Program Manager, Mount Rogers NRA, at the phone or address listed above. E-mail inquiries can be addressed to [gwilliams03@fs.fed.us](mailto:gwilliams03@fs.fed.us). We will be considering applications from current employees of the George Washington and Jefferson Forest as well as applicants outside of the Forest Service who can meet the knowledge, skills, and abilities criteria.

Please complete the appropriate Outreach Reply form on one of the next two pages and return it to the Mount Rogers NRA by e-mail, mail or fax. (Please telephone to confirm receipt of fax.)

**OUTREACH REPLY**  
**For Current Forest Service Employees**

Forestry Technician- GS-462-4/5  
Dispersed Recreation  
Mount Rogers National Recreation Area  
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

Name:

Current Duty Station (include Forest and Region):

Current Job Title (include series and grade):

Mailing Address:

E-mail address:

Please return this form by March 10, 2004, to Ginny Williams

By e-mail at [gwilliams03@fs.fed.us](mailto:gwilliams03@fs.fed.us);

Or fax to (276) 783-5504;

Or mail to: Mount Rogers NRA  
USDA Forest Service  
3714 Hwy 16  
Marion, VA 24354.

**OUTREACH REPLY**  
**For Non-Forest Service Employees**

Forestry Technician- GS-462-4/5  
Dispersed Recreation  
Mount Rogers National Recreation Area  
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

Name:

Current or most recent job title:

Job titles and dates of employment of any positions held that relate to outdoor recreation, facilities, cleaning, maintenance and/or grounds keeping (include volunteer experience):

Mailing Address:

E-mail address:

Please return this form by March 10, 2004, to Ginny Williams

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