



Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture

WATERSHED – FISH – WILDLIFE – AIR – RARE PLANTS ::: WFW

MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

December 2008 / January 2009

CONTENTS	<u>News</u>	<u>Coming Events</u>	<u>Technical Information & Publications</u>	<u>Training & Tools</u>	<u>Sharing Success</u>	<u>Vacancies/ Employment Opportunities</u>
General/Cross Area	* —	* —	* —	* —		* — R1 R3 R5
Air Resource						
Appeals & Litigation						
Aquatic/Fish						* — R5
Continuing Education/WFW						
NatureWatch						
Planning						
Soil	* —					
TES	* —					
Watershed	* —					
Weather						
Wildlife	* —					* — R2, R5, R8, R9
Other Staffs or Partners Geospatial, RHVR, BLM - Idaho				*		* —

* Click on the header to take you to this section of the newsletter.

Federal job announcements can be found at:

http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp

Submit your information

News:

GENERAL/CROSS AREA

Transition Recommendations from Environmental Community

These recommendations to the President-elect have come across our collective electronic desks during November. This is in addition to what was previously shared in the November WFW newsletter. Sharing the collection with you – no analysis or editorial comments from us.

Transition Team Hears NCSE Conference Recommendations

On December 11, 2008, NCSE presented the recommendations of its just concluded National Conference: Biodiversity in a Rapidly Changing World to the Energy and Environment Transition Team of the incoming Obama Administration. NCSE Executive Director Peter Saundry and Senior Scientist David Blockstein were accompanied by colleagues from the Society for Conservation Biology, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Heinz Center for Science, Economics and Environment, and Obama campaign advisor Dan Martin – all members of the conference planning committee, as well as a staff member of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Transition team participants included David Hayes, head of the Energy and Environment team, and co-leads for EPA, USDA and Interior.

NCSE's main points were:

- The Obama Administration must recognize the interconnections between global climatic disruption and biodiversity loss.
- Biodiversity research and conservation can be an important part of the Obama Administration's effort to re-engage US leadership in the rest of the world.
- Biodiversity is a fundamental basis for the wealth of America. The United States should engage in short-term and long-term actions to preserve that fundamental wealth.
- Biodiversity is essential to national security and international stability.
- Proper information is essential to realize the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

NCSE then provided the nearly 200 draft recommendations developed by the conference participants, including:

The President should issue an Executive Order directing agencies to conserve biological diversity, with particular emphasis on public lands and water and incentives for private land conservation.

Overall each agency should review its authorities, regulations, initiatives, waivers, spending, and related international agreements and report to the President, CEQ, and domestic advisory bodies on things that need to be changed to better conserve biodiversity.

Because of the inevitable climate change that will only worsen, there must be a concerted effort to develop and implement a Biodiversity Adaptation Strategy.

The U.S. should re-engage in existing international environmental endeavors including requesting that the Senate ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species and the Law of the Sea, participating in international efforts to combat global climate change, and developing multi-agency plans for their implementation.

The federal government should use land trust organizations and other mechanisms to purchase lands to help to complete a national conservation landscape that provides resistance and resilience to climate change and protects ecosystem services, as well as assisting the recovery of the real estate market.

The United States must recognize that many social, environment, and security problems are rooted in rapid population growth.

Because environmental problems are caused by a dysfunctional relationship between people and the environment, the government should support research on coupled human-natural systems, including links between population dynamics and biodiversity.

The full set of recommendations are available on the conference website:

<http://www.ncseonline.org/Conference/Biodiversity/Recommendations/Breakout%20Recommendations%201st%20edited%20draft.pdf>

NCSE also presented summaries of recommendations from previous national conferences, including Energy, Climate Change: Science and Solutions, Integrating Environmental and Human Health, Water, Forestry, Monitoring and Forecasting, Environmental Education, International and Institutional Changes. Along with our colleagues, we emphasized the importance of support for science and for maintaining the integrity of scientific information in decisionmaking.

NCSE's memo to the transition team can be found at website:

<http://www.ncseonline.org/Conference/Biodiversity/Congressional%20Visits/Transition%20Memorandum%207%20edited.doc>

The transition team members were very positive, understood the connections among the issues and were very appreciative of our one-hour presentation. They informed us that they are in consultation with the science transition team. They encouraged future involvement from the scientific community. David Hayes concluded by stating "you will be even more relevant" during the Obama Administration.

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

Berryman Institute (East) Announces 2009 Request for Proposals

Through midnight, February 28, 2009 BI (East) will accept proposals for research occurring in AL, AR, CT, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MS, NC, NJ, NH, NY, OH, PA, PR, RI, SC, TN, pine or coastal (eastern) TX, VA, VT, WI, and WV.

Deadline for submitting 2009 proposals: midnight - February 28, 2009

You will receive e-mail confirmation of your submission. If you do not receive an e-mail within 48 hours, please contact Laura Andrews.

[Information and Application](#)

Contact: Laura Andrews, Assistant to the Director, Berryman Institute - East; 662-325-6694
E-mail: landrews@cfr.msstate.edu

Submitted BY: Shelly Witt, USFS/WO/WFW

Call for Applications: Wildlife Leadership Awards

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is currently seeking applications for the Wildlife Leadership Awards. Each year, RMEF awards scholarships of \$2,000 for outstanding Juniors and Seniors studying Wildlife Sciences in a recognized wildlife program. If you know a student who may be interested and qualified, please forward this information. The due date is March 1, 2009.

More information, please visit the following website:

www.rmef.org/conservation/coned/edprograms/awards/wlaform.htm

Contact: **Becky S. Bennett, 1-800-225-5355 ext 555.**

Submitted BY: Sandy Kratville, USFS/WO/WFW & RMEF Liaison

On-line Defensive Driving

Due to the popularity of the 2006 WFW article regarding the on-line defensive driving course and with numerous queries on how to access this Online Defensive Driving course, the WFW staff is providing information that can be used by any unit to set up unit-wide online trainings. Two of the attachments are letters from the WO Safety Staff providing clarification and justification for Defensive Driving courses. The other three were briefs and information provided to the WFW staff about a company who provides an on-line defensive driving course. It should be noted that there are other companies that offer online courses, and this posting or providing of material is not meant as sole endorsement of a single company. However, it is known that this company does offer an on-line defensive driving course, which meets the requirements provided in the Safety Manual handbook, and the guidelines set forth in the letter below. This information was still correct as of FY 2008.

[2005 WO Defensive Driving Clarification Letter](#) 34 KB

[Defensive Driving Course Information \(justification, access\)](#) 52.5 KB

Submitted By: Rhonda Stewart, USFS/R3/WFW

SOIL

Terra Migration Follow-up

Terra migrations were completed in September 2009, after nine months. Since the migrations completed, the Terra migration team has worked on cleaning up the few data migration errors that remained (R1), Moving NASIS soil survey data to the CDW, and working on the image migration.

For more information, please contact Dan Little (dlittle@fs.fed.us, 503-668-1644)

NASIS Soil Survey Migration to CDW

In October 2008, the structure for soil surveys was installed at the Corporate Data Warehouse. Over the next several months NRIS will populate the CDW with the latest published soil survey data from the NRCS.

For more information about NASIS Migration contact:
Martin Ferwerda (mferwerda@fs.fed.us, 503-668-1619)

For more information about NASIS and the Soil Program contact:
Randy Davis, WO Program Manager (rdavis03@fs.fed.us, 202-205-1082)

Submitted By: Randy L. Davis, USFS/WO/WFW

TES – Threatened & Endangered Species

FWS News Release: Polar bear ESA Section 4(d) rule announced

"The special rule, issued under Section 4(d) of the ESA, adopts the conservation regulatory requirements of the MMPA and CITES for the polar bear in most instances; provides that incidental take of polar bears resulting from activities outside the bear's current range is not prohibited under the ESA; clarifies that the Special Rule does not alter the Section 7 consultation requirements of the ESA; and applies the standard ESA protections for threatened species when an activity is not covered by an MMPA or CITES authorization or exemption. Further, this special rule does not affect any existing requirements under the MMPA, including incidental take restrictions, or those of CITES."

"Based on the extensive analysis associated with the polar bear listing rule it has been determined that activities and federal actions outside Alaska do not currently show a causal connection impacting individual polar bears. Therefore, no consultation is warranted at this time for any such activities and actions. This provision ensures that the ESA is not used inappropriately to regulate greenhouse gas emissions."

Text of Final Rule (to be published in FR soon, and effective 30 days after that date)
News Release: <http://www.fws.gov/news/NewsReleases/showNews.cfm?newsId=27A58FDE-922A-2B50-ED394D030EE543BD>
50 CFR Part 17: <http://alaska.fws.gov/pdf/pb4d.pdf>

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

CONTENTS

USGS Unlocks New Discoveries to Help Protect Endangered and At-Risk Species

News Release Excerpt

USGS Unlocks New Discoveries to Help Protect Endangered and At-Risk Species Scientists are using new and creative ways to help protect endangered and at-risk species and the ecosystems they — and humans — depend on for survival.

This includes the use of new tools such as DNA testing to track grizzly bear movement and habitats; monitoring methods that enabled researchers to discover new freshwater habitats that endangered sea turtles use for survival in Everglades National Park; techniques to restore critically endangered freshwater mussels to their native habitats by raising them in laboratories and then releasing them into the wild; and innovative research to reduce the threats and restore the habitats of unique, endangered, and threatened plant species found only on California's Channel Islands.

“Conserving species has always been a top priority for USGS and its partners, but is even more important now because climate change alone may put 20 to 30 percent of all U.S. plants and animals at risk of extinction, in about 40 years, according to 2007 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change/,” said USGS Imperiled Species Coordinator Rachel Muir. “These striking numbers do not take into account the additional threats of species loss from other sources such as accelerating urban growth, increasing demands for energy and other resources, and effects of contaminants and invasive species.” Highlights of new ground-breaking USGS research on endangered plants and animals has just been released in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a publication called the /Endangered Species Bulletin. The web version of /The/ /Bulletin/ is available at http://www.fws.gov/Endangered/bulletin/2008/bulletin_fall2008.pdf.

Paper copies will be released in early January and will be available through the USGS Office of Communications. “Science is the best tool we have for understanding what plants and animals need to survive — and human survival directly depends on the well-being of plants and animals,” added Muir. “Federal science that is conducted across biology, geology, geographic and water sciences, the social sciences and others is essential for the United States and the world to be able to continue to protect our biological heritage.”

Muir noted that conserving species diversity is the cornerstone of protecting global environments. “Once a species is lost, it is lost forever; science cannot restore or replace it. We know that species diversity is essential in making ecosystems work and provide the products that humans and all animals and plants need to survive — clean air and water, food, fiber and medicines. Yet the role species play in ecosystems are still poorly understood.”

Muir emphasizes that just a portion of recent USGS discoveries and research are addressed in this special volume.

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

WATERSHED

Hazelhurst leaves WO for Colorado

Sherry Hazelhurst accepted the Deputy Forest Supervisor position on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison NF in Delta, CO. Sherry will make the move in March. Congratulations Sherry!

Submitted By: Ron Dunlap, USFS/WO/WFW

Request for Forest Service Inventory & Monitoring Technology and Development Project Proposals - FY 2010

DUE: March 3, 2009

The annual Forest Service call for Technology and Development proposals has been issued along with a suggested form to use. The Inventory and Monitoring proposals are due by March 3, 2009, which gives you plenty of time to document a need in this area or network with your creative colleagues to solicit their ideas.

The Steering Committee is very interested in hearing from you, and looks forward to evaluating a diverse collection of proposals to help the Forest Service improve its natural resource information management performance. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Contact: Doug Powell, dougpowell@fs.fed.us 202-205-1724

[Call Letter pdf](#) 31.4 KB

[Project Proposal Request Form](#) doc 20.9 KB

Submitted By: Doug Powell, USFS/WO/EMC

WILDLIFE

Nominations - 2009 Ducks Unlimited Wetland Conservation Achievement Awards

Ducks Unlimited is very pleased to solicit nominations for the 2009 Ducks Unlimited Wetland Conservation Achievement Awards Program. The awards will be the featured event on March 20 during the Ducks Unlimited Breakfast at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Arlington, VA.

Each year DU is proud to recognize the achievements of individuals from the United States, Canada or Mexico who have made exceptional contributions to wetlands and waterfowl conservation in North America. These partners, colleagues and leaders are usually individuals who have made long-term contributions to the conservation of these vital resources. However, extraordinary accomplishments over a shorter period of time are often recognized.

View the [nomination brochure](#) and please share this e-mail with others who may know of deserving nominees. Direct any questions to Brenda Rogers at brogers@ducks.org.

Submitted By: Jina Mariani, USFS/WO/WFW

[CONTENTS](#)

Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

Elk Camp – 25th Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Conference

Dates: March 5-8, 2009

Location: Fort Worth Convention Center, Fort Worth, Texas

Celebrating the USFS/RMEF 25-year Partnership

Meetings and Activities of Special Interest to FS Employees

- Conservation Partners Reception, Thursday, March 5, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, Sheraton Hotel
- 25th Anniversary Celebration with Randy Travis Concert, Thursday, March 5, starts @ 6:00 pm, Billy Bob's Texas
- USFS-R2/RMEF Meeting: Friday, March 6, 9:00 am – 10:00 am, Fort Worth Convention Center
- USFS/RMEF National Meeting: Friday, March 6, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Fort Worth Convention Center
- BLM/RMEF National Meeting: Friday, March 6, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, Fort Worth Convention Center
- RMEF Stewardship Contracting (open to agency personnel), Saturday, March 7, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Fort Worth Convention Center
- Reception, Grand Banquet with Travis Tritt Concert, Saturday, March 7, starts @ 7:00 pm, Fort Worth Convention Center

Information

Submitted By: **Sandy Kratsville, USFS/WO/WFW & RMEF Liaison**

Technical Information & Publications:

GENERAL/CROSS AREA

NFSL - New Online Journals Available

National Forest Service Library provides access to a wide variety of journals and other literature. Access is through the internal FS web (not available outside the FS). FS Employees can register for "Monthly Alerts" by emailing 'FSLibrary'.

This month's topic is **Water and Watersheds**. New journals available online are:

American Journal of Botany

This journal publishes research on all aspects of plant biology and plant science.

American Meteorological Society Journals:

1. Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology

This journal publishes "applied meteorological research" and "...applied climatology research related to the use of climate information in decision making, impact assessments, ... development of climate monitoring tools, urban and local climates, and climate as it relates to the environment and society."

2. Journal of Climate

This journal publishes "climate research concerned with large-scale variability of the atmosphere, oceans, and land surface..."

3. Earth Interactions

"Earth Interactions is an electronic journal dealing with the interactions between the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere in the context of global issues or global change."

Submitted By: Sara Garetz/Julie Blankenburg, USFS/ NFSL

Training and Tools:

TES

The Xerces Society Launches New Web Resource Center

The Xerces Society is launching its newly redesigned website <http://www.xerces.org/>. The new website has greatly improved design, accessibility and additional resources. With hundreds of pages of information, the website is a resource for those interested in invertebrate conservation. In addition to summaries of the Society's conservation programs, the site offers access to dozens of freely downloadable factsheets and conservation guidelines...and, be aware of the Pollinator Partnership: <http://www.pollinator.org>

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

WATERSHED

A La Carte Ground Water Training Offered

With the increasing complexity of ground water-related issues experienced by the National Forests and Grasslands, decreasing travel and training budgets, and the need for more focused training, the Ground Water Program is offering a la carte ground water training to supplement the periodic offering of the national Ground Water Resource Management course through the Geology and Minerals Training Office (GMTO). These limited short courses are expected to be 1 or 2 day sessions covering focused topics tailored to fit the specific needs of a group of forests or a region. Examples include basic hydrogeology, inventory and monitoring of ground water resources, ground water in energy or other large-scale NEPA, etc. The advantage of this form of training is you and your colleagues can learn what you really need to know about in a short time frame at minimal per student cost. We would work with you to clarify your ground water

training needs, identify appropriate instructors and set a date for the session. We would expect the sponsoring unit(s) to assure about 8-10 attendees and cover instructor travel costs.

The National Ground Water Management course offered by the Geology & Minerals Training Office will continue to be offered periodically (the next offering is tentatively scheduled for May 2010). The advantage of attending the national course is to learn about the entire array of issues under the Ground Water Program, meet others facing similar ground water challenges, and experience the “national” perspective.

Contact Chris Carlson (202-205-1481 or 703-605-4634; ccarlson@fs.fed.us) for more information or to request an a la carte training session.

Submitted By: Chris Carlson, USFS/WOW/WFW

 General Of

Geospatial 2009

The following half-day and one-day courses are being offered during the Geospatial '09 Conference at Snowbird Conference Center, UT. These sessions will take place on April 27th and 29th, 2009.

Registration for these courses is now open and available through the [Geospatial Training and Awareness site](#) (internal FSWeb URL – contact Stu for information).

- Applied Cartographic Concepts
- ArcGIS Explorer for the USFS
- Editing in the Geodatabase Environment
- GIS for Managers and Other Professional Staff
- Image Server for the USFS
- Infrared Refresher
- Internet Data Sources / Source Quality and Data Integration
- Managing Field to Desktop Data Capture Workflows (GPS)
- ModelBuilder Tools for Natural Resource Applications
- Project Management Fundamentals
- Understanding Coordinate Reference Systems and Map Projections
- Using ArcCatalog to Create Metadata
- Using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) with ArcGIS

Conference information can be found at the [Geospatial '09 site](#).

Hope to see you there!

Stu Gregory, Geospatial Training, Geospatial Service and Technology Center

US Forest Service

801-975-3833

sgregory01@fs.fed.us

WFW Continuing Education Program Updates

1. SF182 completion does NOT mean you are Registered

The AgLearnSF182 feature is not linked to AgLearn xRegistrationx. Check your xRegistrationx tab in AgLearn or contact Shelly Witt to ensure you are really registered. We may cancel a workshop due to xlowx registration only to find out people completed SF182s thinking that was all they needed to do. Please share this bit of information like gossip at coffee breaks and pre-meeting chats.

2. Endangered Species Act for Line Officers -- Still Room

Dates:

Location

Information

Register in AgLearn. Contact Shelly Witt (switt01@fs.fed.us for assistance)

3. Policy and Legal Aspects of Endangered Species Management

Dates: March 2-5, 2009

Location: Portland, Oregon - Lewis & Clark College, Environmental & Natural Resources Law Program

Information

Register in AgLearn. Contact Shelly Witt (switt01@fs.fed.us for assistance)

Sharing Success:

Read success stories at our **USFS Success Story Reporting System**. Have a USFS Success? Share it through the USFS Success Story Reporting System.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/index.php> - NOW ON WWW!

Vacancies/Employment Opportunities:

REGION 1

District Ranger - Gallatin National Forest - Gardiner Ranger District **(Outreached closed 01/13/09 – Read on for Vacancy Announcement information.)**

The Northern Region (R1) will soon be filling a District Ranger, GS-340-12/13 position, on the Gallatin National Forest, Gardiner Ranger District, located in Gardiner, Montana.

Perched on the northern edge of Yellowstone NP, the District has an extraordinary, long-term monitoring program of wildlife, vegetation, recreation; and has mentored over 30 graduate students at Montana State, and has hosted many visiting international students. Encourage any wildlife biologists interested in Line to apply!

Interested applicants or those desiring further information should contact Mary C. Erickson, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest, at 406-587-6949, or email at mcerickson@fs.fed.us.

The vacancy announcement for this position is posted on the U.S. Government's official website for employment opportunities at www.usajobs.gov <http://www.usajobs.gov> under vacancy announcement ADS07-WOJOBS-0029G. This is an Open Continuous Roster (OCR) with no closing date. Those that wish to be considered for this position must apply to the vacancy announcement specifying Gardiner, MT as a location. Applications should be submitted through the Forest Service automated application system (AVUE).

Submitted BY: Beth Hahn, USFS/R1/WFRP

REGION 2

Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-12, PUEBLO, Colorado

Vacancy announcement ADS09-R2-PSINF-1078DP (P-GV): Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-12, PUEBLO, Colorado, has been sent to USAJOBS and has a scheduled open date of 01/06/2009 and close date of 01/20/2009. Upon the open date, the announcement will be accessible at <http://www.avuedigitalservices.com/usfs/applicant.html> or <http://www.avuecentral.com>. You may view the announcement that was sent by accessing <http://www.avuedigitalservices.com/usfs/ads.html> and entering your manager userid and password. Contact your Servicing Human Resources Office if you have any questions.

Submitted BY: Melanie Woolever, USFS/R2/WFW

Outreach R2 Director of Renewable Resources - Golden, Colorado

Please see the attachment for more information. The positions covers range, botany, invasives, timber, wildlife, fisheries, ecology, and the forest health section of State & Private Forestry.

[More Information](#)

Submitted BY: Andy Kratz, USFS/R2/WFW

REGION 3

Outreach R3 Staff Office on the Prescott National Forest

Forest Recreation and Natural Resources Staff Officer Position we will be advertising shortly. Please distribute widely, to contacts and interested individuals within and to other regions.

[More Information](#)

Submitted BY: Alan Quan, USFS/R3/Prescott NF

REGION 5

Eldorado NF Fishery biologist outreach - GS-482-09 ENDED: January 23, 2009

Please contact Jann Williams, Fisheries Biologist, Eldorado National Forest.
e-mail: jwilliams@fs.fed.us. The outreached has ended, but contact Jan for any announcement information she may have at this time.

Submitted By: Steven D. Phillips, USFS/WO/WFW

Wildlife Biologist on the Eldorado NF

Please share with your networks. The Eldorado National Forest is outreaching for a Wildlife Biologist, GS-0486-9/11 position with a duty station of Georgetown, California. Access USAJOBS at <http://www.usajobs.gov> for the open continuous vacancy announcement information. It can also be found at <http://www.avuedigitalservices.com/>

[More Information](#)

Submitted By: Cheryl Carrothers, USFS/R5/WFW

Outreach Notice: Natural Resource Information Program Manager R5

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region is currently in the process of outreach to assess interest in a GS-401-13, Natural Resource Information Program Manager position.

Please share this information with those within your network or with others you know who may be interested. The outreach notice for this position is in effect through February 6, 2009 and can be accessed at <http://outreach.fsr5.com>.

Contact: Jayne Handley, USDA, Forest Service, R5-Pacific Southwest Region
Phone: 707-562-9019; E-mail: jhandley@fs.fed.us

REGION 8

R8 OUTREACH NOTICE: Biologist Wildlife Program Manager GS-486-13

Summary: The Biological & Physical Resources Unit of the USDA Forest Service in the Atlanta Southern Regional Office will be advertising a biologist position. This GS-0486-13 position serves as Program Manager for the wildlife program and reports to the Director of Biological and Physical Resources. The position involves working collaboratively with personnel on the national forests in 13 southern states and Puerto Rico. Specific duties include serving as a member of the Director's staff on annual and out-year planning and budget, resource planning, annual reports, manual revisions and program reviews. This position also provides program and technical leadership to the Director and other staff units in the conservation and management of wildlife species. The position requires considerable travel and participation on Regional and National teams. Interagency collaboration and contact with partner organizations and universities is expected. Please contact Kenneth Ennis at 404-347-408 for more information.

[More Information](#)

Submitted By: Kenneth Rex Ennis, USFS/R8/WFW

REGION 9

Wildlife Biologist on the Superior National Forest Needed

There is an outreach announcement for a 462-12 Wildlife Biologist on the Superior National Forest. Although the outreach closed on 1/16, you can contact Karla Scribner with questions at 218-626-4369, or send an email to kscriber@fs.fed.us concerning the actual job announcement.

[More Information](#)

Forest Biologist Vacancy Announcement on the Wayne NF

The following vacancy announcements for Forest Biologist on the Wayne were posted in USAJOBS.

ADS09-R9-WNF-0476G/DP (P-GV)

ADS09-R9-R9WNF-0476G/DP (P-GV)

There are two announcements running concurrently, one for the 401 series and one for the 486 series. Applicants can apply to both or to one. Only one position will be filled. Duty station is Nelsonville, OH. Closing date is February 5, 2009. Please distribute widely as appropriate.

Submitted BY: Carleen Yocum, USFS/R9/Wayne NF

OTHER VACANCIES

Pre-announcement outreach for Partnership/Volunteer Coordinator

This is a pre-announcement of an upcoming position currently being processed through 52-tracker. The text below reflects the GS-301-14 position, however, the position may be filled at a GS-13 or GS-14 level and will be a virtual position or located in Washington, DC. To be included on the distribution list when the announcement opens, please send your name, location preference, and current position (series and GS level) to Martha Kettle at mkettle@fs.fed.us.

This position is part of the Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources (RHVR) Staff, USDA Forest Service, which is responsible for the formulation and implementation of broad policies, programs, plans, standards, and procedures for the development and management of the recreational resources of the National Forest System and administration of their use.

The incumbent serves as a principal staff assistant for the RHVR Staff. Incumbent is responsible for the development, management, implementation and evaluation of the partnership and volunteer programs.

Incumbent provides national leadership in 1) developing and using partnerships to achieve program goals and to meet the needs of national forest users, 2) marketing recreation and partnership opportunities, 3) expanding recreation opportunities within ecosystem management, and 4) keeping abreast of new collaboration methods and recreation technologies.

Incumbent provides national leadership and serves as a nationally recognized program authority in the coordination and ongoing management of the volunteer program to achieve program and National Forest System goals and to meet the needs of national forest users.

Contact Information: Martha Kettle, Assistant Director, Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources, Ph: 202-205-1358, Email: mkettle@fs.fed.us

Idaho State Office Fish Vacancy

Although Tim Burton retired several weeks ago, his vacant seat, as fish program leader for Idaho, will soon be filled. This state offers as much or more aquatic opportunities as any other in the BLM, is among the best staffed with quality individuals, and has great state office support. Keep your eyes open for this announcement, consider it if you want a challenging position working with anadromous as well as resident critters, and make some calls if you are interested to any of the WO fish staff (Karl Stein or Tyler Abbott), the Idaho State Office Branch Chief (Jon Foster), to know more about the program.

This job will be advertised soon!

Contact Information: Tom Mendenhall - (202) 452-7770 (Eastern Time)
Karl Stein - (530) 224 - 2156 (Pacific time)
Tyler Abbott - (202) 452-7752 (Eastern Time)

Submitted By: Steven D. Phillips, USFS/WO/WFW

World's Best Job Announced– Please Read!

SYDNEY (AFP) – [News Release](#)

An Australian state is offering internationally what it calls "the best job in the world" -- earning a top salary for lazing around a beautiful tropical island for six months. The job pays 150,000 Australian dollars (105,000 US dollars) and includes free airfares from the winner's home country to Hamilton Island on the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland's state government announced on Tuesday. In return, the "island caretaker" will be expected to stroll the white sands, snorkel the reef, take care of "a few minor tasks" -- and report to a global audience via weekly blogs, photo diaries and video updates.

The successful applicant, who will stay rent-free in a three-bedroom beach home complete with plunge pool and golf buggy, must be a good swimmer, excellent communicator and be able to speak and write English. "They'll also have to talk to media from time to time about what they're doing so they can't be too shy and they'll have to love the sea, the sun, the outdoors," said acting state Premier Paul Lucas. "The fact that they will be paid to explore the islands of the Great Barrier Reef, swim, snorkel and generally live the Queensland lifestyle, makes this, undoubtedly, the best job in the world." Lucas said the campaign was part of a drive to protect the state's 18 billion Australian dollar a year tourism industry during the tough economic climate caused by the global financial meltdown.

"Traditional tourism advertising just doesn't cut it sometimes and we are thinking outside the box by launching this campaign." Queensland Tourism Minister Desley Boyle said some people might question whether it was risky to let an unknown person become an unofficial tourism spokesperson for the state. "I think the biggest risk will be that the successful candidate won't want to go home at the end of the six months," she said. "This is a legitimate job which is open to anyone and everyone." Applications are open until February 22. Eleven shortlisted candidates will be flown to Hamilton Island in early May for the final selection process and the six month contract will commence on July 1.

Job-seekers can apply on Islandreefjob.com

WFW Newsletter Contact Information: Disclaimer – Non Discrimination Statement

WFW Newsletter is a monthly newsletter without a clever name and is provided by the National Forest System Watershed-Fish-Wildlife-Air-Rare Plants staff (including Soils and Meteorology) of the USDA Forest Service. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Netta Grant at agrant@fs.fed.us or your favorite Program Leader no later than the 20th of each month. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity and brevity. Emphasis is on brevity. Links to detailed URLs or documents are great – include them in your information contribution. If photos are included in your submission, please provide alternative text with each photo. Alternative text should not repeat captions but describe the scene shown in the photo.

If brevity and clarity are a struggle for you, we recommend the "[Plain & Simple! Document Writing](#)" workshop instructed by Dr. Jud Monroe.

Vacancy Positions listed are for outreach purposes only and are not full announcements. Interested individuals should contact the units referenced or consult the [USAJOBS website](#).

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