



**Outreach Announcement
Biological Science Technician (Insects and Disease)
GS-0404-07/08/09
Forest Health Protection, Boise Field Office
Boise, Idaho
Reply Due: November 29, 2017**

Intermountain Region State & Private Forestry Forest Health Protection (FHP) may soon advertise for a Biological Science Technician (Insects and Disease), GS-0404-07/08/09, in order to fill a critical vacancy. This position serves on the FHP Boise Field Office team that provides technical advice, assistance, and guidance on forest health issues to Federal, State, private and tribal land managers in southern Idaho. This position is eligible for telework and other flexible work arrangements. However, it is not a virtual position and the duty station will be Boise Field Office, Boise, Idaho. This is a permanent-full-time position.

PLEASE NOTE: The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish the appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the advertisement (e.g., target grade and service-wide, region-wide, government-wide, Pathways Recent Graduate, or Demo). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination. **Reply date is prior to November 29, 2017.**

ABOUT THE POSITION

This position reports to the Supervisory Entomologist who is hosted on the Boise National Forest Supervisor's Office. The incumbent is responsible for independently performing a variety of complex and recurring duties to support the FHP program. The position is nonsupervisory and is included in the bargaining unit. Much of field work may require some physical exertion. This can occur in forest environment where terrain is often uneven, steep, rocky, and covered with thick vegetation, dead and down trees and where there is exposure to extremes of weather and temperature.

Major Abilities and Duties

- Ability to recognize and measure local insect and disease agents and the damage they cause.
- Ability to ride in small aircraft to accurately identify and map damage agents and host.
- Knowledge of the forestry techniques and measurements, collecting and preserving biological samples, and sampling procedures to detect insects and diseases.
- Performs project planning activities concerning pest management and forest health protection. Designs, coordinates and executes forest health protection/pest field and laboratory projects.

- Develops a project work plan which includes selecting the methods for pest detection, collection, identification, evaluation and pilot testing.
- Conducts aerial and ground surveys including forest health monitoring, biological evaluations and pilot tests to collect the data required.
- Organizes, verifies, and refines the data collected. Summarizes methods, findings, recommendations and other conclusions for approval.
- Manages upkeep and maintenance/use records of vehicles, tools and field equipment, and laboratory equipment and materials. Maintains insect and disease collections, specimen preparation and labeling, specimen sorting and identification. May serve as staff micro purchaser and safety officer.
- Overnight travel is frequently required during field season. Incumbent will be expected to ensure safety of self and co-workers under conditions expected in remote settings. Incumbent will be expected to maintain positive contact in the field with supervisor, dispatchers and co-workers through use of radio, mobile phone, and satellite communication devices.

Qualification Requirements: Those who are interested must meet the qualification requirements for the series covered by the standards for Professional and Scientific Positions at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/standards/group-stds/gp-prof.asp>. The OPM Qualification Standards Handbook Manual is available for review at any federal personnel office or on the Internet at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/index.asp>.

THE DUTY STATION

The Boise Field Office is located at the Boise National Forest Supervisor's Office in Boise, Idaho. The staff provides services to five National Forests in southern Idaho National Forests as well as other Federal and State stakeholders including Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. The Intermountain Region encompasses a four state region (Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming).

THE COMMUNITY

Boise, Idaho is situated where the high desert meets the western edge of the Rocky Mountains. As the state capitol and largest city in the State, Boise is a full-service community with an estimated population of 215,000. The Boise metro area is estimated to contain 650,000 persons. The Boise metropolitan area's economy is strong with many dual career opportunities, including a wide variety of Federal agencies within easy driving distance, and many private sector job opportunities. Schools in the Boise area generally rank above both Idaho and National averages. There are several institutions of higher learning in the area, including Boise State University and College of Western Idaho. Health care facilities and churches are widely available.

Entertainment opportunities are abundant in Boise and the metropolitan area, with a wide array of restaurants, dinner theaters, museums, and sports-and-music venues. Sports fans can enjoy Boise's professional athletic teams, including the Idaho Stampede basketball and Boise Hawks baseball. Additional information can be found on the Boise Chamber of Commerce website <http://www.boisechamber.org/>

Boise actively supports the arts and has a variety of cultural attractions, including the annual Shakespeare Festival, Art in the Park, and the Gene Harris Jazz festival, just to name a few. The Morrison Center located on the campus of Boise State University hosts a variety of world-class cultural events. Additional information can be found at <http://www.boise.org/>

Climate

Boise has a moderate climate. Average annual temperature is 51°F with summer highs to 100°F, while the average winter temperature in January is 29°F. The average annual precipitation is 12 inches. Boise averages 234 sunshine days and has one of the longest growing seasons in Idaho. The moderate temperatures, low humidity, and relatively dry climate make Boise the perfect place for year-round recreation.

Housing

The market features various types of houses available. There are numerous developments within Boise and the commuting area of Boise, including Eagle, Meridian, Star, Kuna, Caldwell, Emmett, and Nampa. The median price of a single family house sold in Ada County in 2015 was \$229,000. The median price of a single family house sold in Canyon County (commuting area) for 2015 was about \$145,000.

Recreational Opportunities

Outdoor recreation opportunities in and around Boise are extensive. The Boise Greenbelt stretches 25 miles along the Boise River and is perfect for family biking and walking. The Boise River is popular for inflatable rating or tubing while the nearby Foothills provide thousands of acres of open space. The Ridge to Rivers Trail System provides over 125 miles of trails for hikers and mountain bikers of all abilities. Golfing and fishing are popular activities in the metro area as well. The area boasts over 12 beautiful ball golf courses and 17 disc golf courses.

The nearby mountains boast a wide variety of activities including fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, Nordic and Alpine skiing, and some of the best whitewater rafting and kayaking in the world are located in the nearby Payette River and Salmon River drainages. Numerous skiing opportunities exist within southern Idaho with Bogus Basin Ski Area located just north of Boise and includes seven ski lifts, 45 groomed runs, and 2,000 acres of night skiing, as well as 12 miles of groomed Nordic skiing.

The nearby National Forests include over 120 campgrounds and numerous rustic cabins for rent. The Forests maintain over 2,000 miles of summer trails with selected trails open to bicycles, motorcycles, and ATVs. For the hunter, the nearby Forests have several big game opportunities including bear, deer, elk, and moose. Over 7,600 miles of streams and rivers and more than 250 lakes and reservoirs beckon water sports enthusiasts to fish, canoe, kayak, sail, or water ski.

Additional information about the community:

<http://www.boisechamber.org/relocation>

<http://www.cityofboise.org>

<http://www.thecityofboise.com>

www.city-data.com/city/Boise-City-Idaho.html

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise,_Idaho

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We encourage you to express your interest for our position by completing the attached outreach response and sending it to Joel McMillin, Supervisory Entomologist, Boise Field Office at jmcmillin@fs.fed.us. For more information you can call Joel at (208) 373-4227. When issued, the vacancy announcement will be available on the USA Jobs web page, www.usajobs.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!



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Revised 6/8/2005

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OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

Biological Science Technician (Insects & Disease) - GS-0404-07/08/09

State and Private Forestry – Forest Health Protection

Intermountain Region, Boise Field Office

Boise, Idaho

RESPOND BY: November 29, 2017 to jmcmillin@fs.fed.us

NAME:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
MAILING ADDRESS:	
STREET ADDRESS:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:	
TELEPHONE:	

CURRENT STATUS:

Agency:						
Type of Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/> Term	<input type="checkbox"/> VRA	<input type="checkbox"/> PWD	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Region:						
Forest:						
District:						
Series:						
Grade:						
Position Title:						

If you are not currently a permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities?

People with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterans Readjustment Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled Veterans w/30% Compensable Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998	<input type="checkbox"/>
Former Peace Corps Volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student Career Experience Program	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please list formal education (degree received & date attained) & briefly describe why you will be a quality candidate for this position:

Submission of this form is voluntary – thank you for your interest!