



Outreach Notice

Biological Technician (Plants)

GS-0404-4

Respond by April 18, 2014

Pacific Northwest Region, Region 6 (Oregon & Washington)

Olympic National Forest

Duty Station: Olympia Washington

The Olympic National Forest will be advertising a biological technician position, GS-0404-4, to serve as a member of a crew conducting invasive plant herbicide treatments. This position is a temporary position, extending from May 19 through September 30 (dates may be negotiated). The duty station will be located in Olympia, Washington.

Anyone interested in further information or in receiving a copy of the vacancy announcement when it opens is advised to complete the attached Outreach Response Form.

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. Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination. **Reply by April 18, 2014**

THE POSITION

This position involves invasive non-native plant inventory, management, and monitoring. Duties will include identifying plants, surveying for target plants, collecting data on infestation location and status, and treating invasive plant infestations using hand-pulling, hand tools, power tools, mowers, and herbicides, and recording data related to these treatments. The work involves highly physical labor. Duties will involve almost daily hiking, often to remote locations in rugged terrain under possible adverse weather conditions. This position will involve applying herbicides with backpack sprayers or other equipment on a regular basis. The position may occasionally include assisting with re-vegetation and ecological restoration duties such as planting, irrigation of past plantings, native plant nursery work, or restoring overused recreation sites. Global positioning systems, aerial photographs, topographic maps, and/or compass may be used in navigation. A portion of time may be dedicated to data entry and other duties in a laboratory/office setting. Persons who wish to be considered for invasive plant management positions must be willing and able to apply approved herbicides utilizing appropriate personal protective equipment which will be supplied by the Forest Service.

A valid herbicide applicators license is not required for this position, but candidates will be required to obtain one immediately after employment.



The Forest

The Olympic National Forest covers over 632,000 acres on the Olympic Peninsula in the northwest corner of Washington State (the Evergreen State). The Forest is divided into two Ranger Districts with the Pacific Ranger District office located in Forks, Washington and covering the land on the west side of the Peninsula. The Hood Canal District Ranger District is located on the east side of the Peninsula, along Hood Canal, with the District Office in Quilcene, Washington.

The Olympic National Forest is synonymous with the Olympic Peninsula. The Peninsula is a separate and unique geophysical providence surrounded on three sides by saltwater. U.S. Highway 101 is the main travel route paralleling the Pacific Coast on the west, Strait of Juan de Fuca on the north, and inland waters of Puget Sound on the east. This 6,500 square mile area is an association of complex, winding ridges, rugged and precipitous mountains, deep canyons, and tree covered slopes.

The Olympic Peninsula has an incredible variety of environments within short distances. Within less than 50 miles between Mt. Olympus and the Pacific Ocean, the vegetation changes from the lush, temperate rain forests of the Hoh, Queets, and Quinault Valleys to an arctic environment of lichens and mosses above 7,000 feet. Heaviest precipitation occurs in the fall, reaching a peak in December and then decreasing in spring. Winter snowfall on the Peninsula ranges from 10 inches in the lower valleys to greater than 250 inches in the higher mountains. Summers are relatively dry, with warmer temperatures averaging near 70 degrees.

A multitude of recreational opportunities exist year-round on the Olympic National Forest. Auto touring, camping, picnicking, and backpacking are popular spring and summer activities. Fishing, hunting, hiking, berry picking, fire wood cutting, and Christmas tree cutting are enjoyed during the fall and winter months.

Check out the Olympic National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r6/olympic for more information on the Forest.

Community Information

The city of Olympia is a full-service community with major medical facilities, shopping malls, numerous stores, multiple churches, and is about an hour drive south of Seattle. The median home sale price in 2012 was \$186,000 and three bedroom rentals average about \$1,250 per month. For more information on the community, check out the official city website at www.ci.olympia.wa.us. Salary for Olympia is based on locality pay for Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA. Check out the OPM website (www.opm.gov/flsa/oca/09tables/html/sea.asp). Bunkhouse facilities may be available in Hoodsport, Washington which is a half-hour drive from Olympia.

The state of Washington does have a 6.5% sales tax and county/city sales tax of about 2%, but no income tax. The vacancy announcement for this position will be posted at the US Government's official site for jobs and employment information: www.usajobs.opm.gov.

**How to apply**

Interested applicants should complete the attached form and return it to Susan Piper, Wildlife, Botany, and Invasive Plant Program Manager, by April 18, 2014. For further information on the position, contact Susan Piper at spiper@fs.fed.us or 360-956-2435. Interested applicants will be sent a copy of the Vacancy Announcement once it is listed at USA Jobs.



OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM
Olympic National Forest
Biological Technician, GS-0404-4 (Plants)

If you are interested in this position, please file this page, complete the information below and attach it to an e-mail sent to spiper@fs.fed.us. You may also send via US Postal Service mail to **Susan Piper, Olympic National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Olympia, WA, 98512. Please reply no later than April 18, 2014.**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tell us how we can contact you:

Postal Mail Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

E-Mail Address: _____ Office Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Are you currently a Federal employee? YES ____ NO ____

IF YES: Current Agency and location: _____

Current Position, title/series/grade: _____

Type of Appointment: ____Permanent ____Term ____Temporary ____Other

If you are not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, indicate whether you are eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities:

____Person With Disabilities ____Veterans Readjustment ____Former Peace Corps Volunteer
____Disabled Veteran w/30% Compensable Disability ____Student Career Experience Program
Conversion ____Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 ____Other

Briefly describe why you would be a quality candidate for this position: