

OUTREACH NOTICE

Soil Scientist
GS-0470-05/07/09
Salary Range: \$32,348 – \$63,716
USDA Forest Service
Southwestern Region
Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory



Tonto National Forest



The Southwestern Regional Office will soon be advertising a GS-0470-05/07/09 permanent, full-time soil scientist position within the Ecosystem Analysis and Planning/Watershed and Air Staff. This position is assigned to the Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory team co-located at the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office in Phoenix, AZ. Please note: The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to inform interested applicants of the upcoming opportunity and evaluate their responses to help determine the appropriate recruitment method (e.g. target grade(s), service-wide/region-wide/government-wide, DEMO, Pathways, Recent Graduates) and area of consideration that will generate a diverse and highly qualified applicant pool for the position.

To express interest in this position, please complete the attached Outreach Response Form and return by October 31st, 2014.

The Position

The primary purpose of this position is to participate in the completion of the Terrestrial Ecological Unit inventory of the Tonto National Forest. This is a field going position with major duties associated with describing, classifying and mapping climate, soils, vegetation, geology, and geomorphology. We are looking for an individual who has:

- Skill with aerial photo interpretation, geospatial applications, and other remote sensing techniques.
- Skill in the use of software applications including ESRI ArcMap, GPS applications, word processing, spreadsheets, and databases.
- Skill in describing soil profiles, identifying plants and describing plant communities, interpret geological and geomorphic processes.
- Physical ability to traverse and work in rough, rugged terrain under challenging weather conditions.
- Ability to operate 4-wheel drive vehicles, truck mounted backhoe, and ATVs.
- Good organizational and communication skills.
- Good leadership and interpersonal skills to work in a team-oriented environment.
- Ability to work safely and independently.
- Ability to describe, classify, map, and interpret complex ecosystems.
- Ability to multi-task under short turn-a-round timeframes.

For information about the position please contact:

Andy Casillas, Supervisory Soil Scientist , markcasillas@fs.fed.us or call 602-225-5207

Phoenix Metropolitan Area:

The Tonto National Forest is directly adjacent to the Phoenix Metropolitan Area and is one of the most heavily visited in the nation. From the desert to the tall timber, the Tonto National Forest contains a spectacular 2.9 million acres of cactus, chaparral, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer country north and east of Phoenix right up to the edge of the Mogollon Rim. The Forest is the fifth largest in the United States and has six Ranger Districts operating in a complex, sensitive political atmosphere. The Forest receives national attention concerning such issues as recreation, range management, prescribed fire, road management, and a host of issues related to the wildland urban interface next to the Phoenix Metropolitan Area.

Climate:

Like most of Arizona, the Tonto National Forest enjoys abundant sunshine and low relative humidity much of the year. Winter temperatures are very mild and pleasant in the desert areas, with periodic rainfall occurring throughout the season. While desert elevations rarely receive snow, the higher mountain regions can receive heavy snowfall along with cooler temperatures. Summers in the desert areas can be quite hot, with daytime temperatures often exceeding 100 degrees from May thru September. July has the highest average daily temperature of 104.3 degrees and January the lowest at 64.9 degrees. Average rainfall for the District is about 8 inches.

The higher mountain regions generally enjoy daytime temperatures 25-30 degrees cooler than the deserts. Each year the summer "monsoon" season arrives on the Tonto NF in early July and typically remains through mid-September. During this period, an influx of tropical moisture brings higher humidity and afternoon thunderstorms that can be quite spectacular. In the desert regions, much of the total annual precipitation falls during these "monsoon" thunderstorms. The Greater Phoenix Area also receives more than 300 days of sunshine a year.

Phoenix Metropolitan Area:

The Phoenix Metropolitan Area is a full service community of nearly 4 million people located in the heart of Maricopa County. Many visitors come during the winter months to enjoy the warm weather, creating a larger population during those months.

Housing:

Government provided housing and day care facilities are not available. Rentals are available in much of the Phoenix Metro Area. Phoenix is a quickly growing area with a vast number of new developments. Homes are reasonably priced with modest housing starting around \$100,000-\$200,000. Rental rates for 2 bedroom apartments start at around \$850 per month.

Schools:

The community has 21 school districts. The valley is home to Arizona State University and several community colleges which maintain very high educational ratings.

Medical Facilities:

Phoenix has many Hospitals and Medical Centers that are among the best in the country including the Mayo Clinic.

Recreation, Sports, and Things to Do:

The Phoenix Metro Area has numerous Regional Malls and Shopping Centers as well as Outlet Malls, Cabelas and Bass Pro Shop stores. The area is the home to the Phoenix Suns basketball team, Arizona Cardinals football team, Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team and Phoenix Coyotes hockey team. Many baseball teams reside here during spring training allowing many opportunities to watch professional ball games at reasonable rates. There are numerous museums, concert and theatre venues available as well as NASCAR, Grand Prix and Professional Motocross racing events. Other National Forest and National Parks are within a half-day drive from Phoenix including the Grand Canyon.

Informational Websites

Local Info:

www.life-in-phoenix.com;

www.phoenix.about.com

Maricopa County: www.maricopa.gov

Information about the Tonto National Forest can be obtained from the website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/tonto/> .

The position will be advertised through the USAJOBS website (<http://www.usajobs.gov/>).

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

If you are interested in this position, please complete this form and email it to Andy Casillas (markcasillas@fs.fed.us). Forms may also be mailed to Andy Casillas, Tonto National Forest, 2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85006 or FAX #602-225-5295. Please respond by October 31, 2014. You will automatically receive notice of the advertisement if you return the outreach form.

I am interested in the following position: **Soil Scientist, GS-0470-05/07/09**

Location: Region 3, Southwestern Region, Terrestrial Ecological Unit
Invertor, Tonto National Forest, Phoenix, AZ

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name:		Date:	
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Address:	
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Email Address:	
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Phone:	
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Are you currently a Federal employee?	YES:		NO:	
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IF YES: Current Agency and location:	
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Current title/series/grade:	
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Current Type of Appointment:	Permanent		Term		Temporary		Reinstatement Eligible	
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If you are not a current permanent employee (career or career conditional), are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities?	
	Person with Disabilities
	Veterans Readjustment
	Former Peace Corps Volunteer
	Disabled Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability
	Pathways Students and Recent Graduates https://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads
	Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998
	Other, please describe:

Applicants may use this space to identify special qualifications, interests, needs or provide other information.

Thank you for your interest in our vacancy!



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