



Join the Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests

The [Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests](#) (GMFL) in Vermont and New York are looking to hire a wildlife biologist ([0486 Series](#)) to work out of their Supervisor’s Office in Mendon, VT. This position is expected to be advertised through the [Pathways Student Recent Graduate Program](#) as well as a merit promotion opportunity. Recent graduates and students who will be graduating within nine months and meet the minimum education requirements are encouraged to apply. The successful applicant may be hired at a GS-5 and the position’s full promotional potential is GS-9 ([learn about the GS system here](#)).

For more information or to express interest in this position please contact John McCann, Watershed Program Manager, at john.mccann@usda.gov.

How and When to Apply:

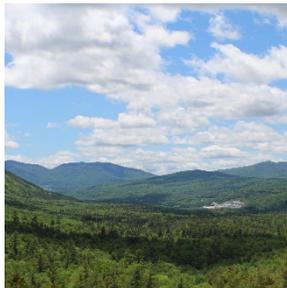
The vacancy announcement for this position will be posted on USAJOBS, the U.S. Government’s official website for employment opportunities at www.usajobs.gov. This position is expected to be available for application via USAJOBS from February 18-28, 2022. However, this timeframe may change. Through USAJOBS, you can [save a search and set up alerts](#) so you don’t miss this or other similar opportunities.

About the Position:

This position is part of the GMFL Ecosystem Services team, is supervised by the Watershed Program Manager, and will work closely with the current Forest Ecologist/Wildlife Biologist as well as District Biologists. This wildlife biologist position will assist in managing the Forests’ Wildlife and Ecology Programs. The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Part of fulfilling this mission is ensuring that species and habitat diversity and functionality is conserved while allowing for multiple uses of the landscape. USFS wildlife biologists conduct monitoring, help design projects and mitigation measures, coordinate with federal and state wildlife agencies, and develop reports, among other responsibilities, for resources on National Forest System lands. What better place to do that than in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont and the Finger Lakes of New York?



Little Rock Pond



View from White Rocks



Lye Brook Falls



View from Mount Horrid

Desired Strengths:

Strong candidates will have or be able to quickly gain knowledge, skills, or abilities related to:

- Conservation of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species,
- Monitoring wildlife and vegetation,
- Impacts of climate change on plant and animal communities,
- Relationships between soils, carbon storage, and habitat characteristics,
- Processes related to the National Environmental Policy Act (including analysis of environmental impacts),
- Data management and database use,
- Professional writing and correspondence, and
- Use of desktop GIS and mobile data collection services like ArcGIS Collector or Survey123.

Requirements*:

- Duties will include work performed in areas requiring considerable walking, bending, and climbing, often over rough, uneven surfaces or mountainous terrain.
- Duties will include working on a computer for extended periods of time requiring the use of computer screens and sitting or standing in a traditional or home office setting.
- The 0486 job series has specific basic requirements for an applicant to be eligible for the position:
 - A degree in biological science that includes:
 - At least 9 semester hours in such wildlife subjects as mammalogy, ornithology, animal ecology, wildlife management, or research courses in the field of wildlife biology; and
 - At least 12 semester hours in zoology in such subjects as general zoology, invertebrate zoology, vertebrate zoology, comparative anatomy, physiology, genetics, ecology, cellular biology, parasitology, entomology, or research courses in such subjects (Excess courses in wildlife biology may be used to meet the zoology requirements where appropriate.); and
 - At least 9 semester hours in botany or the related plant sciences.
 - *Or* a combination of education and experience: equivalent to a major in biological science (i.e., at least 30 semester hours), with at least 9 semester hours in wildlife subjects, 12 semester hours in zoology, and 9 semester hours in botany or related plant science, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

* - Note that [reasonable accommodations](#) may be made to meet physical/ operational requirements where appropriate.

Major Duties Include:

- Gathering, compiling, and analyzing data to determine wildlife habitat requirements and management needs;
- Assessing habitat quality and quantity, interpreting biological requirements for all wildlife species and their habitat;
- Inventorying and monitoring habitat and in some cases populations;
- Determining the need for and recommending wildlife habitat restoration, enhancement, or improvement projects;
- Studying and recommending solutions to special coordination problems involving wildlife habitat protection;
- Coordinating with State wildlife resource agencies;
- Completing environmental analyses as part of an interdisciplinary team;
- Developing [biological evaluations](#) for review by journey-level biologists

Benefits of Working for the USFS:

Working as a federal employee with the USFS includes many job-related benefits including flexible work schedules; telework; paid holidays; paid vacation, personal, and sick time; family-friendly leave policies; [employee assistance](#) and referral programs; [comprehensive medical benefits](#); retirement benefits and thrift savings plan; [long-term care insurance](#); life insurance; wellness/ fitness programs, and more.

About the Forests:

The GMFL consists of two national forest units, the Green Mountain National Forest in south-central Vermont and the Finger Lakes National Forest in upstate New York. The Green Mountain National Forest comprises approximately 400,000 acres along the spine of the Green Mountain region in Vermont. This forest is one of the most heavily recreated national forests in the nation and comprises approximately 5% of Vermont's land base, and 50% of the public lands within the state. There is a high level of coordination with the State of Vermont (which owns most of the other 50% of the public land base) in the management of Vermont's natural resources. The Finger Lakes National Forest comprises about 16,000 acres located near Watkins Glen, NY. As one of the younger national forests, the Finger Lakes provides an interesting study in how past agricultural lands can recover natural functions, but it no less cherished as a recreational and ecological resource for the area.

The GMFL operates as a unified forest with a Supervisor's Office in Mendon, VT and District Offices in Manchester and Rochester, VT as well as Hector, NY. Both forests work collaboratively with other agencies and groups to enhance our collective conservation and stewardship of resources on and off the forest. Employees of the GMFL Supervisor's Office are currently all working remotely while they wait for a brand new, state-of-the-art office to be constructed just up the road from the old office. More information about the forests can be found on our [website](#).



Computer rendering of new Supervisor's Office currently under construction.

About the Location/ Community:

The duty location for this position is Mendon, VT, one of many small, rural towns that make up most of the state. Just next door, about five miles away, is Rutland (comprised of both Rutland City and Rutland Town). Outside of the Burlington area, Rutland is the largest city in Vermont.

Rutland is located in central Vermont at the foot of the western slopes of the Green Mountains at an elevation of about 540 feet. The population of Rutland is about 20,000 with a total of about 60,000 living in Rutland County. Several larger cities are easy to access via train or car, including Albany (100 miles), Boston (165 miles), Montreal (170 miles), and New York City (250 miles). Pico and Killington Ski areas are only about 20 minutes away from Rutland and only about 10 minutes away from the new office!

As with many places in early 2022, the rental market is tight and housing prices are higher than in the past. But, Rutland remains a more affordable place to live than other areas while still having most, if not all, the amenities one would need. According to Realtor.com the median home value in Rutland is around \$225,000 compared to about \$400,000 in Burlington, VT.

Rutland has [small business](#) and larger chain shopping options, easy access to year-round recreation, a growing number of [restaurants](#), a great [maker space](#), a growing [arts and culture](#) scene, easy access to a wide range of medical services, an active [young professionals](#) organization, and one of the best year-round [farmers markets](#) in the state.

Things to Check Out Online:

- Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests: [@gmfl_nfs](#) on Twitter and <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/gmfl/>
- Downtown Rutland: [@downtownrutland](#) on Instagram and <https://downtownrutland.com/>
- Real Rutland: [@therealrutland](#) on Instagram and <https://realrutland.com/>
- Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department: [@vtfishandwildlife](#) on Instagram and <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/>
- New York Department of Environmental Conservation: [@nysdec](#) on Instagram and <https://www.dec.ny.gov/23.html>

**Thank you for your interest in our vacancy.
USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity employer.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).