

PUBLIC NOTICE JOB OPPORTUNITY – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Habitat)

OPENING DATE: March 15, 2023

CLOSING DATE: April 3, 2023

POSITION: Biological Science Technician (Habitat) GS-0404-05 (1 position)

SALARY: \$18.34 per hour to \$23.85 per hour

LOCATION: Essex Junction, Vermont

WHO MAY APPLY: Any qualified U.S. Citizen

WORK PERIOD: This is a 180-Day Excepted Service Appointment

ORGANIZATION: Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service

SUMMARY: This position is part of the Lake Champlain Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office. As a Biological Science Technician, you will be responsible for providing technical support and assistance to biologists participating in habitat restoration activities that support the conservation, restoration, protection, enhancement, and management of the fish and wildlife resources of Vermont.

DUTIES: See information on last page for specific duties of the position

KNOWLEDGE/EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

Only experience and education obtained by April 3, 2023 will be considered. Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work.

Minimum Qualification [GS-05-0404 Biological Technician (Habitat)]

1. One year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-04 grade level in the Federal service that demonstrated your ability to 1) assist with the collection of seeds, propagation, handling, and caring for federally listed plants or host plants of federally listed species; and, 2) assist in the planning and conducting of wildlife censuses and surveys; **OR**
2. Completion of a 4-year course of study above high school leading to a bachelor's degree with major study or at least 24 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics etc. At least 6 semester hours of courses must have been directly related to the position to be filled; **OR**
3. A combination of education and experience as described in 1 and 2 above which together equals 100% of the requirement.

Knowledge and Skills:

1. Knowledge of the basic principles of biological sciences relative to fish and wildlife habitat conservation or management in order to conduct field investigations, prepare data, and then assess the data gathered for incorporation into higher level objectives. The application of the knowledge is evidenced by experience in collecting vegetation/habitat monitoring data, implementing habitat restoration projects, identifying plants to genus or species level, assessing data quantitatively and qualitatively.
2. Knowledge of wildlife habitat restoration methods, techniques, forms, and terminology in sufficient to understanding and carryout the project task and/or assignments, such as planting trees and shrubs or controlling invasive plant species.
3. Skill working with plant species specific to Vermont/Northeastern U.S. in order to identify species as required to conduct field investigations.
4. Knowledge of population assessment methods, techniques, and terminology in order to conduct field investigations.
5. Skill using a variety of gear such as GPS unit, backpack sprayer, string trimmer, hand saw, and survey equipment used in managing and analyzing restoration projects.
6. Ability to work well with a diverse crew in potentially isolated and extreme environments, including rugged terrain.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

1. Must be a U.S. Citizen or National
2. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has determined that this position is suitable for telework only during an emergency or natural disaster.
3. The incumbent must possess and maintain a valid State driver's license at all times during your tenure.
4. Selectee will be required to wear an official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uniform (provided by USFWS).
5. All Federal employees are required by PL 104-134 to have federal payments made by Direct Deposit.
6. Background Investigations: Employment in this position requires a background investigation which may delay your starting date. If you are selected and cannot obtain a favorable adjudication within a reasonable period of time due to disclosed or undisclosed background issues, the employment offer may be withdrawn.
7. Male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must complete a Pre-Employment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration.

HOW TO APPLY

EMAIL your application to
Katherine_Kain@FWS.GOV by 5:00 PM on April 3, 2023.

Do not include any information that contains any personally identifiable information (sex, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political affiliation, race, religion, age, date of birth, social security number, criminal history, photos, etc.). Applications should be based on your qualifications for the position only (education, experience, etc.)

Application and Cover Letter should include and address the following information:

- Full name
- Address, including zip code
- Email and Telephone number
- Your country of citizenship
- Will you be claiming veterans' preference as part of your application? If yes, then submit:
 - DD-214 member copy 4 or other documents to support veteran's preference status
 - SF-15, Application for 10-Point Veteran's Preference and supporting documentation, if you are claiming a service-connected disability
- College and/or graduate school name(s), dates attended, date and type of degree earned or, if no degree earned, show credits earned and anticipated graduation date. Please include transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable)
- Work experience: for each period of employment or non-paid work, include dates of employment (month and year of starting and ending dates), number of hours worked per week* and salary, job title (if the position was in the federal government, include the official job title, occupational series and grade), the employer's name and address, supervisor's complete name and telephone number and indicate whether current supervisor may be contacted and a description of the major duties performed and accomplishments. **Hours worked per week must be included for work experience to be considered.*
- Any other job-related qualifications such as language skills, technical/mechanical skills, professional certificates/licenses and dates received, honors, awards, and special accomplishments related to this position.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Privacy Act Information: The application you submit for this position contains information subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (PL 93-579, 5U.S.C. 522a). We are required to provide you with information regarding the authority and purpose for collecting this data, the routine uses which will be made of it, and the effect, if any, of non-disclosure. You are entitled to the same information as it pertains to disclosure of your social security number.

This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

The U.S. Department of Interior is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Selection for this position will be made solely on the basis of merit, fitness, and qualifications without regard to race, gender, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, non-disqualifying handicap conditions, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or other non-merit factors.

We may use this announcement to fill additional vacancies within 90 days of closing date of this announcement.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

1 position at the Lake Champlain Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office in Essex Junction, VT

Position Overview:

The Biological Science Technician will primarily be responsible for implementing and maintaining riparian habitat restoration projects. This position will be based predominantly in the field (90%) with office support/data entry as needed (10%). The Biological Science Technician will work on multiple restoration sites across the state and gain experience in various restoration methods to benefit fish and wildlife habitat. There will be opportunities to work with other PFW restoration programs (wetland restoration, aquatic organism passage) and external partners as time and interest allows.

Field Duties:

- Support the implementation of riparian restoration projects (**25%**)
 - Plant native trees and shrubs, install bioengineering materials (live stakes, fascines)
 - Harvest plant material for live stake/fascine installations
 - Assist with supervising and managing volunteers for community planting days
- Stewardship and monitoring of riparian and wetland restoration projects (**50%**)
 - Utilize manual and chemical methods to control competing vegetation and maintain restoration sites. Tools used may include backpack sprayers, string trimmers with brush blades, hand saws
 - Monitor success of restored sites; complete field forms using Survey 123, establish photo points in ArcGIS Field Maps, use GPS unit (Trimble R1) to navigate around sites
- Invasive plant control, site preparation, restoration plan development (**25%**)
 - Utilize manual and chemical methods to control invasive plants (Japanese knotweed, common and glossy buckthorn, honeysuckle species, reed canary grass) in restoration projects. Chemical control methods may include cut-stump, stem injection, and foliar spray
 - Assist with purple loosestrife biological control (galerucella beetle rearing and release)
 - Assist with preliminary site visits for potential projects; assist with developing plans for future restoration projects
 - Complete vegetation control to prepare sites for future restoration plantings

General qualifications:

- Positive attitude, strong work ethic, and passion for natural resources conservation
- Background in natural resources management; interest and experience in habitat restoration
- Ability to represent the USFWS; communicate clearly and effectively with landowners and project partners
- Ability to work cooperatively as a team of 2-4 people
- Ability to obtain State of Vermont pesticide applicator license and apply herbicide safely
- Willingness and ability to work up to 10-hour days in strenuous field conditions and all weather conditions; walking over wet, rough, uneven or rocky surfaces, bending, crouching, and stretching may be required. Employees may be required to lift objects weighing up to 50 lbs.

Additional information:

- Work schedule will be set mostly as 10 hours per day, 4 days per week (Mon-Thur).
- Start date and duration = May-November 2023
- This position is temporary with no expectation of continuation or extension.
- No housing is provided

For additional information on the duties of these positions contact
Katherine_Kain@FWS.GOV