VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: June 27th, 2023
CLOSING DATE: July 7th, 2023
POSITION TITLE: Wildlife Biologist (Panther Specialist)
TYPE OF POSITION: Term Appointment with possibility for Benefits, Excepted Service. Not to Exceed 13 months (may be extended up to 4 years)
WORK SCHEDULE: Full-time
ANNOUNCEMENT #: WSER-FL-FY23-09
SERIES/GRADE: GS-0486-7/9
FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL: GS-0486-09
NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 1
LOCATIONS: Wildlife Services Florida
Collier County, Florida (exact duty station negotiable upon selection)

$ 46,696 - $ 74,250 per year depending on GS level and location (relocation costs will not be paid for this position)

WHO MAY APPLY:
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must be 18 years old
- If you are a male born after December 31, 1959 and are at least 18 years of age, civil service employment law (5 U.S.C. 3328) requires that you must be registered with the Selective Service System, unless you meet certain exemptions (proof of registration and/or exemption required). Website: http://www.sss.gov.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:
- Resume (include days/months/years worked, work schedule, and grade level if federal)
  1) Personal information such as name, address, contact information
  2) Education
  3) Detailed work experience related to this position as described in the announcement including
     ▪ Work schedule,
     ▪ Hours worked per week,
     ▪ Dates of employment;
     ▪ Title, series, grade (if applicable)
  4) All supervisors' phone numbers and if they may be contacted
  5) Other qualifications, such as transcripts (if qualifying on education)
- Transcripts (if qualifying on education)
• DD-214 (Member 4 copy), if applicable for Veteran’s Preference
• VA letter required if claiming disabled Veteran’s Preference
• Current active-duty members must submit a certification that they are expected to be discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification is submitted.

HOW TO APPLY: Additional materials not listed above (i.e. position descriptions, training certificates, etc.) may not be considered. Applicants who do not submit the required items listed above may not be considered. Applications with all supporting documents must be submitted to the contact office and must be RECEIVED by the CLOSING DATE of this announcement.

Interested individuals should send a resume, transcripts, veteran documentation (if applicable) to the contact office in each state where the position is located:

CONTACT OFFICE FOR FLORIDA:

Jared Zierenberg
District Supervisor
1408 24th Street SE
Ruskin, FL 33570
(801) 440-5083
jared.r.zierenberg@usda.gov

Summary:

This position will be a field-based position located in Southern Florida. It will be focused on the capture/recapture and collaring of native felines, namely the endangered Florida panther. Capture work will consist of using hounds, camera monitoring systems and live traps. Additional work will include assistance with bobcat capture, research and monitoring. The incumbent biologist will be expected to write reports, give occasional oral and written presentations independently, under the review of the District Supervisor(s) and/or State Director. Work will involve various animal damage management techniques and other field duties as assigned.

DUTIES:
• Provides direct control and technical assistance to a variety of cooperators, along with conducting site visits or assessments to identify wildlife damage issues or threats.
• Monitors and ensures compliance with annual NEPA take thresholds and Federal, State, and local regulations concerning WDM and program directives.
• Compiles and evaluates data on damage or hazards caused by various wildlife species for use in NEPA and ESA documents, MBTA permitting processes, and other documents.
• Establishes and maintains cooperative relationships with other Federal, State, county and city government agencies, Tribes, corporations, educational or research institutions, and individuals.
• Recommends, to supervisor/project managers, areas for potential research or developmental study.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
To qualify, applicants MUST meet all minimum qualification requirements, except Medical Requirements, by the closing date of the announcement.

- Qualifications

Applicants must meet all qualifications and eligibility requirements by the closing date of the announcement including the following specialized experience and/or education, as identified by grade level.

**BASIC REQUIREMENT:**

Degree: biological science that included:

- 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

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.

In addition to meeting the Basic Requirement you must all meet the following requirements for each grade level.

**FOR THE GS-07 LEVEL:** Applicants must have one year of specialized experience (equivalent to the GS-05 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors which demonstrates:

- Experience responding to requests for assistance on wildlife damage management or wildlife research projects.
- Experience in handling hounds for the capture of wildlife.
- Experience modifying and/or adapting established wildlife damage control or capture techniques to meet local conditions and address specific environmental, economic or political considerations.
- Experience communicating both verbally and in writing to cooperators and stakeholders promoting wildlife damage management activities.
- Experience using word processing and spreadsheet software (Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel) to create and modify templates.
OR

1 year of graduate-level education (18 semester hours) in Wildlife Biology, Wildlife Ecology, Wildlife Management.

OR

**Superior Academic Achievement**: To qualify based on superior academic achievement, you must have completed the requirements for a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution AND must meet certain GPA requirements. For more details click: [Superior Academic Achievement](#)

Equivalent combinations of education and experience are qualifying for this grade level.

**FOR THE GS-09 LEVEL**: Applicants must have one year of specialized experience (equivalent to the GS-07 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors which demonstrates:

- Experience preparing presentations and reports to cooperators and other entities to ensure program success.
- Experience collaring, tagging, marking and/or tracking wildlife with telemetry
- Experience in handling and care of hounds for the capture of wildlife.
- Experience interpreting and applying local, State, and Federal laws, regulations or ordinances that pertain to wildlife biology and wildlife damage management.

OR

2 years of progressively higher-level graduate education leading to a master’s degree in wildlife biology, wildlife management, wildlife ecology or masters or equivalent graduate degree in one of the above mentioned fields.

**TRANSCRIPTS** are required if:

- This position requires specific coursework or a degree in a specific field to be basically qualified.
- You are qualifying for the position based on education.
- You are qualifying for this position based on a combination of experience and education.
- You are qualifying for this position based on Superior Academic Achievement.
• This education must have been successfully completed and obtained from an accredited school, college, or university.

COMBINATION OF EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE AT THE GS-07/09 GRADE LEVEL: Applicants may have combinations of successfully completed education and specialized experience to meet total qualification requirements. The total percentages must equal at least 100 percent to qualify for that grade level.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:
• Must obtain or have a valid state driver’s license. Operation of Government-owned or leased vehicles is required. (if this applies)
• Subject to satisfactory adjudication of background investigation and/or fingerprint check.
• Direct Deposit: Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to their financial institution.
• Successfully pass the E-Verify employment verification check. To learn more about E-Verify, including your rights and responsibilities, visit https://www.e-verify.gov/.
• Must demonstrate a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices, and equipment.
• To perform the essential duties of this position, you must have the legal and physical ability to possess and discharge firearms. You must be able to pass a government background check and meet any additional requirements to carry and use firearms. A background check will include answering questions about where you’ve lived, worked, went to school, and any military history or police records. Selection and retention in this position is contingent on a successfully adjudicated FBI National Criminal History Check (fingerprint check).
• Occasional travel may be required for this position

Emergency Response – APHIS is an emergency response agency. This means that all Agency employees may be asked or assigned to participate in rotating temporary duty assignments to support emergency programs at some time during their careers with APHIS. It is difficult to predict the frequency with which such emergency situations may occur – and could range from several emergencies in a year to none over the course of many years. In the event that you are called upon to support an emergency program, this may require irregular working hours, including overtime, and may include duties other than those specified in your official position description. While some emergency program support assignments may be able to be performed at the employee’s current duty station, in other cases employees may be asked to go on-site to a temporary duty state location. In addition, it may be necessary for employees to participate in multiple rotations to an emergency program assignment. Attempts will be made to keep disruption to the employee to a minimum.


Failure to follow application instructions regarding filing appropriate forms and answering questions may result in loss of employment considerations for this position. All applications must be signed, dated, and received by the closing date of this announcement.

NOTE: APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO URINALYSIS TO SCREEN FOR ILLEGAL DRUG USE PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT.
APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION WILL BE CONTINGENT UPON A NEGATIVE DRUG TEST RESULT. INCUMBENTS OF THIS POSITION WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO URINALYSIS TO SCREEN FOR ILLEGAL DRUG USE ON AN ONGOING BASIS AFTER APPOINTMENT, AS DIRECTED.

Carrying a firearm is a condition of employment – In the passing of the Lautenberg Amendment, Congress passed legislation which prohibits anyone who has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing a firearm or ammunition. If selected you will be required to sign the form, “Inquiry for Positions Requiring Possession of Firearms,” certifying that you meet this criteria.

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy-

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a Case-by-Case basis.

A reasonable accommodation is any change in the workplace, or the way things are customarily done that provides an equal employment opportunity to an individual with a disability. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) must provide reasonable accommodations:

- An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events.

Relocation costs will not be paid for this position.