



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: September 4, 2023

CLOSING DATE: September 17, 2023

POSITION TITLE: Seasonal Biological Science Technician

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: (Wildlife) 1

TYPE OF POSITION: Seasonal Term Appointment with possibility for Benefits, Incumbent will work a 6 month seasonal period (Nov-April) Excepted Service Not to Exceed 13 months (may be extended up to 4 years)

WORK SCHEDULE:

ANNOUNCEMENT #: Full Time

SERIES/GRADE: **WSER 08-2023-010**

FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL: GS-0404-6/7

LOCATION: GS-0404-7
Collier County, FL (Exact location negotiable upon selection)

SALARY: \$20.14 - \$29.09 per hour depending on GS level.
Relocation costs will not be paid.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife
Services

Florida District
Office

1408 24th Street SE
Ruskin FL
33570

Ph: (801) 440-5083

An Equal Opportunity
Employer

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 that includes:

- 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 including hours per week
 - Dates of employment;
 - Title, series, grade (if applicable)
- 4) All supervisors' phone numbers and if they may be contacted
- 5) Other qualifications

- Transcripts (if qualifying on education, education must have been obtained from an accredited institution. Education completed in a foreign institution must include an evaluation by an organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign education programs that it was deemed equivalent to an accredited U.S. education program, see: [Foreign Education Evaluation](#). All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.)
- DD-214 (Member 4 copy)
- 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 address listed here:

Jared Zierenberg, District Supervisor – Southern FL
 1408 24th Street SE
 Ruskin Florida 33570
jared.r.zierenberg@usda.gov (preferred method)

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you should need the forms identified in above paragraph or have questions feel free to contact Jared Zierenberg via email.

The incumbent serves as a Biological Science Technician within the Florida Wildlife Services (WS) Program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The technician is responsible for the care, handling and utilization of a team of hounds for the safe capture and recapture of endangered Florida Panthers. The incumbent assists in coordinating project activities and performs assignments involving project goals. The technician assists with other wildlife damage management projects, including additional feline capture projects throughout Florida. They will spend much of their time working independently and with other state/federal wildlife personnel. Travel is required.

Salary Information: First time hires to the Federal government normally start at the lowest rate of the salary range for the grade selected.

Responsibilities: The duties described are for the full-performance level. At developmental grade levels, assignments will be of more limited scope, performed with less independence and limited complexity.

DUTIES:

- Responsible for planning, organizing, and conducting direct control operations to reduce wildlife damage within a geographical area, on airports, and/or technical/subject area of program involvement.
- Inspects and surveys areas and, as necessary, will revise existing WDM programs.
- Uses WDM tools/devices which may include some or all the following depending on need in assigned area: firearms; foothold, body-grip, cage traps; foot snares; neck snares;

and various other capture devices.

- Independently determines and selects the most effective means of control for individual situations.
- Modifies or adapts established damage control techniques as necessary to meet local conditions and address specific environmental, economic, or political considerations.
- Enters data into established WDM database/system of record. Uses data to prepare and submit routine reports regarding daily, weekly, or monthly activities, observations, and events.
- Assists others in preparing and submitting routine and special reports regarding daily, weekly, or monthly activities, observations, events.
- Complies with restrictions and mitigation measures established through consultation with relevant Federal and State agencies.
- Carries out duties in accordance with program decisions made in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) under guidance and oversight by supervisor.
- Demonstrates a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices and materials, and equipment.
- Performs other duties, as required.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

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

The following Selective Placement Factor (SPF) requirement is being used to determine whether an applicant fully qualifies for this position. Therefore, it is **MANDATORY** that all applicants meet this requirement to receive further consideration for this job vacancy. Applicants must demonstrate that they have the knowledge and experience of the SPF listed below. Evidence of this experience must be documented in your resume. Applicants who fail to meet this requirement and/or address the SPF may lose further consideration:

SPF 1: Do you have experience working with tracking dogs/hounds while tracking large cats?

SPF 2: Do you own or have access to tracking dogs/hounds that you can use?

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

For the GS-6 Grade Level:

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience (equivalent to the GS-5 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, federal) sectors which demonstrates experience in:

- Dealing with human-wildlife conflicts and principles of wildlife damage management.
- The requirements of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Endangered Species Act, and National Environment Policy Act.
- Caring for and handling of hounds for the live capture of wildlife
- The use of firearms, traps, snares, immobilizing drugs, catch poles, electronic harassment devices, and other non-lethal control tools.
- Participating in tracking or trailing of wildlife
- Creating/maintaining public contacts to formulate assistance strategies that incorporate technical assistance and operational control techniques.

OR

Successfully completed 1 year of graduate education (18 semester hours) in wildlife.

OR

Combination of Education and Experience at the GS-6 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.

For the GS-7 Grade Level:

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience (equivalent to the GS-6 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, federal) sectors which demonstrates experience in:

- Interpreting and applying policies, regulations, laws, and ordinances that affect wildlife damage management operations and working within those guidelines.
- Using computers for GIS and database applications
- Experience instructing others in wildlife damage management techniques
- Selecting appropriate wildlife damage management strategies, techniques, and tools and apply them to specific situations.

OR

Successfully completed 1 year of graduate education (18 semester hours) in wildlife.

OR

Combination of Education and Experience at the GS-7 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.

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED

Applicants who meet basic minimum qualifications may be referred to the hiring manager for selection. Qualified candidates eligible for veterans' preference will receive referral and selection priority over non-veterans.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS: (if applicable to your position)

- Must obtain or have a valid state driver's license. Operation of Government-owned or leased vehicles is required. (if this applies)
- As a condition of employment, appropriate security clearance is required for this position.
- Position is subject to random and applicant drug testing.
- 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).
- Direct Deposit: Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to their financial institution.
- Occasional travel may be required.

- 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/>.

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. If 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.

See this link: <https://www.usajobs.gov//Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/signature-false-statements/>

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.