



Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

8775 Technology
Way
Reno, NV 89521

(775) 851-4848

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: December 11, 2023

CLOSING DATE: December 26, 2023

POSITION TITLE: Biological Science Technician – Wildlife

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 1

TYPE OF POSITION: Temporary Appointment, Excepted Service, without benefits.

WORK SCHEDULE: Intermittent. Monday-Friday with occasional weekends, early mornings and evenings with occasional night work.

ANNOUNCEMENT #: WRNV-24-003

SERIES/GRADE: AD-0404-3/4/5 depending on qualifications

FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL: AD-0404-3/4/5. You will be hired at the grade level you qualify for, there is no promotion potential.

LOCATIONS: **Reno, NV**
Will routinely & regularly travel to cooperator or other worksites as opposed to a single alternative worksite.
Travel, transportation, and relocation expenses will not be paid. Any travel, transportation, and relocation expense associated with reporting for duty to this position will be the responsibility of the selected employee.

SALARY: \$35,516.88 - \$55,603.44

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, 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 2 or 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 address listed here:

CONTACT OFFICE:

Jack Spencer, West District Supervisor
USDA APHIS WS
8775 Technology Way
Reno, NV 89521
Office: (775) 851-8829
jack.o.spencer@usda.gov

SUMMARY:

The incumbent acts as a Biological Science Technician (Wildlife) within the Wildlife Services (WS)-Nevada program. In collaboration with the Reno-Tahoe International airport, duties involve administrative and field work related to airport protection efforts.



Project specific activities include, but are not limited to:

- Wildlife surveys
- Trapping of mammalian and avian species using a wide variety of traps
- Placement of rodent toxicants
- Operation of game/trail cameras
- Non-lethal pyrotechnics for bird dispersal
- Operation of a four-wheel drive GSA truck
- Data entry into WS's Management Information System (MIS)
- Cleaning and maintenance of equipment, shop and supplies
- Other duties as assigned

DUTIES:

Responsible for conducting direct control operations planned and organized by others to reduce wildlife damage within a geographical area or technical/subject area of program involvement.

Uses WDM tools/devices which may include some or all of the following depending on need in assigned area: firearms; foothold, body-grip, cage traps; foot snares; neck snares; chemical control methods; pyrotechnics; noise cannons/exploders; drop nets; rocket/cannon nets; various other scaring devices.

Utilizes working knowledge of WDM methods and strategies to independently recommend appropriate WDM strategies which alleviate wildlife damage for cooperators and the general public through technical assistance.

Assists Wildlife Biologists or higher-graded staff by correctly identifying common, current or recent damage problems and relating them to the damage-causing species.

Determines and selects the most effective means of control through consultation with supervisor or other higher-graded or more experienced employees.

Provides appropriate technical assistance recommendations on typical wildlife and WDM issues on a limited basis. Appropriate recommendations require a general knowledge of Federal, State and local wildlife and WDM specific regulations and policies.

Maintains inventories and compiles reports of government-provided equipment and supplies including locations, acquisitions, returns, losses, and reason therefore.

Enters data into established WDM database/system of record. Uses data to prepare and submit routine reports regarding daily, weekly or monthly activities, observations, events.

Responsible for reporting accomplishments, problems encountered, work locations, etc. to supervisor.



Maintains records of chemical control use to comply with State and Federal regulatory requirements.

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.

Must be familiar with a limited range of various threatened and endangered species, and their habitats, that are or may be affected by program activities within area of jurisdiction.

Complies with restrictions and mitigation measures established through consultation with relevant Federal and State agencies.

Demonstrates a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices and materials, and equipment.

Conducts all operations using approved safety procedures and in accordance with local, State and Federal laws and regulations, and USDA, APHIS, and WS policies. Identifies safety-related opportunities and challenges and communicates them to the supervisor.

Obtains and maintains pesticide applicator licenses, permits, or other similar authorizations as necessary.

May assist WS research efforts by participating in field tests of proposed damage control materials, devices or methods or providing biological or other specimens.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

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

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

FOR THE AD-03 GRADE: Applicants must have 6 months of general work experience that demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the work of the position.

OR

Successful completion of 1 year of study that included at least 6 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics.

Transcripts required if qualifying based on this provision.

OR



COMBINATION OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE AT THE AD-3 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.

Transcripts required if qualifying based on this provision.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AT THE AD -4 GRADE LEVEL:

Applicants must have 6 months of general experience that demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the work of the position. In addition, applicant must have 6 months of specialized experience (equivalent to the AD -3 level) that demonstrates:

- Experience recognizing and accurately identifying damage caused by various wildlife species and selecting appropriate species-selective management actions.
- Experience in wildlife damage management techniques and methods including, but not limited to foothold, body-grip and live traps and cable restraint devices and related equipment utilized in damage management operations.
- Experience with various hand tools, 4X4 trucks, ATVs, small gasoline engine operation, hauling and backing trailers.

OR

EDUCATION SUBSTITUTION AT THE AD-4 GRADE LEVEL:

Successful completion of 2 years of study above high school that included at least 12 semester hours in any combination of courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least 6 semester hours of courses must be directly related to wildlife.

Transcripts required if qualifying based on this provision.

OR

COMBINATION OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE AT THE AD-4 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.

Transcripts required if qualifying based on this provision.

For the AD-5 Grade Level:

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience (equivalent to the AD-4 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, federal) sectors which demonstrate experience in:

- Experience in wildlife damage mitigation methods and techniques.



- Experience using lethal and non-lethal animal control techniques.
- Conducting basic computer operations for record keeping, data analysis, report writing and correspondence.

OR

Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study 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, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics, with at least 6 semester hours in wildlife.

Transcripts required if qualifying based on this provision

OR

Combination of Education and Experience at the AD-5 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)
- 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).



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.

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.

Relocation costs will not be paid for this position.

More than one position may be selected from this announcement.