



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Wildlife  
Services

National Wildlife  
Research Center

4101 LaPorte Ave  
Fort Collins, CO  
80521

An Equal Opportunity  
Employer

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**OPEN DATE:** December 11, 2023

**CLOSING DATE:** December 22, 2023

**POSITION TITLE:** Biological Science Technician

**# OF VACANCIES:** 1

**TYPE OF POSITION:** Temporary Appointment with possibility for Benefits, Excepted Service Not to Exceed 6 months (may be extended up to one year)

**WORK SCHEDULE:** Full time

**ANNOUNCEMENT #:** NWRC-4WS774

**SERIES/GRADE:** GS-404-5

**FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL:** GS-404-5

**LOCATION:** Fort Collins, CO  
  
(Relocation expenses will not be paid)

**SALARY:** \$ 41,757-54,289 per year

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### 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 address listed here:

**CONTACT OFFICE:**

Amy Gilbert, Ph.D.  
 Project Leader, Rabies  
 Supervisory Research Biologist  
 USDA APHIS WS  
 National Wildlife Research Center  
 4101 Laporte Avenue  
 Fort Collins, CO 80521  
 Ph: 970-266-6054  
[Amy.T.Gilbert@usda.gov](mailto:Amy.T.Gilbert@usda.gov)

**SUMMARY:**

The position is with the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), Rabies Project located in Fort Collins, CO. The goals of this project are to study the ecology of wildlife diseases, assess the risk of disease transmission among wildlife, between wildlife and domestic animals or humans, and to develop methods, tools, techniques, and strategies to reduce transmission, prevalence, and persistence of rabies in wildlife.

**DUTIES:**

- Collection and preservation of biological samples from living and dead mesocarnivores (i.e. biopsy, necropsy, blood samples, etc.). Sampling of live

animals includes procedures of animal capture, immobilization, handling, restraint, and marking. Euthanasia of animals may also be required.

- Recording and maintaining animal information such as ID numbers, treatments, genotype, age, etc.
- Gather data using techniques and technologies including: telemetry, geographic information systems (GIS), global positioning systems (GPS), video/photography, census and survey.
- Collecting records and maintaining an electronic database of biological data from field and laboratory studies in accordance with SOP's, to facilitate statistical analyses, and perform descriptive and statistical analyses of data.
- Preparing sample tissues for diagnostic evaluation.
- Operating basic field equipment and government-owned or leased vehicles (e.g., truck, traps, telemetry equipment). Ensuring a safe work environment, safe operation of equipment, and maintaining proper functioning of equipment.
- Supervising other personnel when placed in a leadership role.
- With minimal supervision, comply with Good Laboratory Practices, Animal Welfare Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and applicable state and federal wildlife laws and regulations.
- Assisting with literature review in preparation for field or laboratory studies.

#### **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 GS-5 Grade Level:**

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience (equivalent to the GS-04 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors which demonstrates:

- Knowledge of principles and techniques as they relate to wildlife ecology, wildlife diseases, population health and management; knowledge of the research process and scientific method including hypothesis testing, study design and basic statistical methods and software.
- Ability to carefully record and collate scientific data.
- Knowledge of and adherence to regulations and directives associated with SOPs, Animal Welfare Act, and IACUC.

- Knowledge of basic animal medical care and biological sample collection including vaccinations, blood collection, immobilization, euthanasia, biopsy, and necropsy.

**OR**

**Education Substitution at the GS-5 Grade Level:**

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, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least 6 semester hours of courses must be in wildlife.

**OR**

**Combination of Education and Experience at the GS-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 CO driver's license. Operation of Government-owned or leased vehicles may be required.
- 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, field and laboratory equipment.
- May include occasional project-specific travel

**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.

**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.

**More than one position may be selected from this announcement.**