Vacancy No.: 17-01
Date Opened: 02/28/17
Date Closed: 03/14/17

Position: Biological Science Technician Field Assistant, GG-404-4/5
Type of Appointment: Temporary, Excepted Service: The work of this project will not exceed 1039 paid hours in a service year. Positions may offer rehire eligibility for subsequent appointments, provided the employee has not exceeded 1039 hours of work in a twelve month period and has achieved an acceptable level of performance. The work of this position is scheduled to begin on or about 5/22/2017.
Number of positions: Four
Work Schedule: Full time, Part-time possible.
Who May Apply: All U.S. Citizens
Location: U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, La Crosse, WI

This is a temporary excepted service position for which all qualified applicants, with or without Federal status may apply and be considered. Appointment to this position will not convey permanent status in the Federal service. Temporary employees are covered by the Social Security Retirement System; can accrue annual and sick leave; and are ineligible for health and life insurance coverage.

Major Duties:
Incumbent conducts surveys of Midwestern songbirds in forest habitats; identifies Midwestern songbirds by sight and sound especially migratory and resident birds in deciduous floodplain forest of the Upper Mississippi River; successfully navigate to study points using GSP and orienteering methods, collect detailed information on bird species, locations, timing and movements; identify and take precise and accurate measurement of Midwestern plant species; record measurements on data sheets and/or field notebook computers; enter data into computer databases; operate light trucks and outboard motorboats.

Incumbent performs technical work in a field environment in support of professional and technical employees engaged in data collection and analysis of biological data. The selectee will perform one or more of the following duties: collects wildlife data in the field at survey locations in floodplain forest; collects, records, summarizes, organizes and/or files data using a variety of standardized data collection procedures and equipment, and may operate a government motor vehicle or a boat as an incidental driver.

Experience using hand-held GPS and spreadsheet or database software are a plus.

A valid state driver’s license is required for this position.

Qualification Requirements:
For the GG-4:
6 months of field survey party experience; OR
2 years of sub-professional experience; OR
1 year of college related to field of employment.
For the GG-5:
9 months of field survey party experience; OR
3 years of sub-professional experience; OR
3 years of college study plus 3 months of laboratory or field work experience

(If qualifying based on completed education, please submit college transcripts by the closing date.)

Basis of Evaluation:
All applicants will be evaluated on the basis of education and experience (including unpaid or volunteer experience). Applicants must meet all qualifications and eligibility requirements by the closing date of this announcement.

Applicants will receive a basic eligible or ineligible rating based upon the qualification requirements. First preference in referral will be given to eligible applicants entitled to 10-point veteran’s preference who have compensable service-connected disability of 10% or more. All other qualified applicants entitled to veteran’s preference will be given preference over qualified applicants not entitled to veteran’s preference.

Physical Demands:
The incumbent must work for prolonged periods under difficult field conditions such as hiking over rugged or muddy terrain, and through thick grass and forest undergrowth, enduring insect bites, exposure to poison ivy, and hot and cold temperatures. Work requires bending, crouching, stooping, reaching, and carrying weights up to 25 lbs. Hand and finger dexterity and physical coordination may involve fine and precise work, delicate adjustments, or exact measurements. Normal to better than normal hearing acuity is required due to the fact the primary method for detecting study animals is aural.

Veterans’ Preference:
If you are claiming veterans’ preference based on a compensable service-connected disability of 10% or more, you MUST submit a SF-15, DD-214 and letter from the Veterans Administration identifying the percentage of preference by the closing date. Proof of preference for all other applicants must be provided upon request.

Other Information:
All applicants must be United States citizens. Under regulations contained in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, employment in this position is limited to those persons who are authorized to work in the U.S. Verification of employment eligibility will be required at the time of appointment.

Applicants selected for Federal employment will be required to complete a “Declaration of Federal Employment,” (OF-306), prior to being appointed to determine their suitability for Federal employment and to authorize a background investigation. Failure to answer all questions truthfully and completely or providing false statements on the application may be grounds for not hiring the applicant, for dismissing the applicant after they begin work, and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment (U.S. Code, Title 18, section 1001).

Prior to or at the time of appointment, male applicants born after December 31, 1959, will have to certify that they have registered with the Selective Service system in order to be appointed to a position with the U.S. Geological Survey, unless legally qualified for an exception.
USGS Employees are subject to Title 43, USC Section 31 (a) and may not: (a) have any personal, private, direct, or indirect interest in lands or mineral wealth of lands under survey: (b) have any substantial personal, private, direct, or indirect interests in any private mining or mineral enterprise doing business with the United States; or (c) execute surveys or examinations for private parties or corporations.

Selection for this position will be based solely on merit, fitness, and qualifications without regard to race, sex, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, non-disqualifying handicap conditions, sexual orientation, parental status, or any other non-merit factors.

This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities.

You will be required to operate a government-owned or leased vehicle in the performance of your official duties. Applicants for this position must meet the following requirements: (1) possession of a valid State driver’s license, and (2) possess a safe driving record. If selected, you will be required to provide proof of a valid State license and a copy of your driving record.

A background investigation will be required for this position. Continued employment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements will be grounds for termination.

Throughout the recruitment and hiring process we will be communicating with you via email; therefore, it is imperative that the email address you provide when applying for this vacancy remains active. Should your email address change, please notify the point of contact identified in the vacancy announcement as soon as possible so that we can update our system.

How to Apply:
Carefully read all information and instructions. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the application is completed. The USGS will not be responsible for soliciting additional information from applicants but will consider individuals based on their applications as submitted. Submit one of the following forms of application: (a) resume: or (b) other written format. If you are qualifying based on education, you need to submit your transcripts by the closing date or you will not be considered. Applications must be receive by the closing date on the announcement to be considered. Please provide the following information in your application:

JOB INFORMATION:
• Announcement number
• Title
• Grade of the job for which you are applying

PERSONAL INFORMATION:
• Full name
• Mailing address (with zip code)
• E-mail address
• Day and evening phone numbers (with area code)
• Country of Citizenship
• Veterans Preference
• Highest Federal civilian grade held (also give job series and dates held)
EDUCATION:
• High school (name, address, including zip code if known)
• Colleges and universities (address including zip code if known)
• Subject Major
• Type and year of any degrees received (if no degree, show total credits earned and indicate whether semester or quarter hours)
• If qualifying on education, send a copy of your college transcripts or lists of college courses completed. Specify title of course, semester or quarter hours earned for each course, date completed, grade earned.

WORK EXPERIENCE: Give the following information on your paid and non-paid work experience related to the job for which you are applying (do not send job descriptions).
• Job Title (include series and grade if Federal job)
• Duties and accomplishments
• Employer’s name and phone number
• Supervisor’s name and phone number
• Starting and ending dates (month, day and year)
• Hours worked per week
• Salary
• Indicate if we may contact your supervisor

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:
• Job related training courses title, length, date taken
• Job related skills (i.e., other languages, computer software/hardware, tools, machinery, typing speed)
• Job related certificates and licenses (current only)
• Job related honors, awards and special accomplishments (i.e., publications, memberships in professional or honor societies, leadership activities, public speaking and performance awards).
Provide details, but do not send documents unless requested.

* Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is defined as information which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, social security number, biometric records, etc. alone, or when combined with other personal or identifying information which is linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth, mother’s maiden name, etc. Please ensure that you have removed all Personally Identifiable Information from all documents prior to submitting or uploading your application material.

Applications must be postmarked and mailed, email, or faxed by 3/14/17 to:

Mr. Tim Donahue
U.S. Geological Survey
2630 Fanta Reed Road
La Crosse, Wisconsin  54603
donahue@usgs.gov
Telephone:  608/781-6206
Fax:  608/783-6066

NOTE: THIS VACANCY SUBJECT TO FUNDING AVAILABILITY
OTHER INFORMATION: Travel, transportation, and relocation expenses will not be paid by the Federal Government. Any travel, transportation and relocation expenses associated with reporting for duty in this position will be the responsibility of the selected employee. This is a non-supervisory position.

Applicants who include vulgar, offensive, or inappropriate language or information in their application package will be ineligible for further consideration for this position.

Under Executive Order 11935, only United States citizens and nationals (residents of American Samoa and Swains Island) may compete for civil service jobs. Agencies are permitted to hire non-citizens only in very limited circumstances where there are no qualified citizens available for the position. USGS employees are subject to Title 43, USC Section 31(a) and may not: (a) have any personal, private, direct or indirect interest in lands or mineral wealth of lands under survey; (b) have any substantial personal, private, direct or indirect interests in any private mining or mineral enterprise doing business with the United States; or (c) execute surveys or examinations for private parties or corporations.

The application contains information subject to the Privacy Act (P.L. 93-579, 5 USC 552a). The information is used to determine qualifications for employment, and is authorized under Title 5, USC, Section 3302 and 3361.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.