Permanent Position Outreach

GS-0462-5/6/7 Forestry Technician (Timber Stand Improvement)
Cowlitz Valley Ranger District
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/giffordpinchot/home

Reply Due: March 9, 2020

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Cowlitz Valley Ranger District will soon be filling a GS-0462 Forestry Technician position with an entry level grade of GS-05 and a target grade of GS-07. This is a permanent seasonal position with a guarantee of 18 pay periods of full time employment each year. The duty station is Randle, Washington.

The Forestry Technician is primarily a field position with duties of development and oversight of reforestation and stand improvement, and stand examination contracts. The Forestry Technician works as a part of a team to achieve District silviculture projects including cone collection, stocking surveys, survival examinations, and tree improvement projects for the District, and may serve as a workleader for one or more employees. Much of the work will be outdoors and in all kinds of weather and terrain. Job duties will require the employee to carry a Government Driver’s License and operate 4 wheel drive vehicles. If not presently held, the employee will be required to attain contracting officer representative qualifications. While not required, it will be encouraged that the employee become a certified tree climber and become certified in chainsaw operations. Additionally, the employee can, if they choose, participate in wildland fire as time allows. Applicants should be proficient in their knowledge of standard forestry practices, collecting tree measurements, making maps, and recording field data. The position is supervised by the District Silviculturist.

The position will be advertised on the USA Jobs website: https://www.usajobs.gov/ within the next few months. Please return the attached outreach response form to receive updates on the hiring process.

For more information please contact District Silviculturist, James Donahey, at 360-497-1132 (james.donahey@usda.gov).
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
The Gifford Pinchot National Forest has a storied history, and is home to two “Champion” trees. Located in southwest Washington State, Forest Vicinity Map (printable version), the forest comprises about 1.4 million acres and includes the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument established by Congress in 1982. While the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District is located in a rural setting, it is located within one-and-a-half to two hours of several large metropolitan areas including Centralia-Chehalis, Portland-Vancouver, Longview-Kelso, Olympia, Tacoma, Seattle, and Yakima.

Candidates may learn about the Forest, our programs, and our opportunities by visiting our web site: https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/giffordpinchot/home

Community and Locale
Location: Mount Rainier’s glaciers drain almost entirely to the Puget Sound. The exception is the Cowlitz River, which cuts a deep east west canyon through the southern Cascade Mountains before turning south to the Columbia River. The District office is located where the river canyon widens, to form the “Big Bottom Valley”. The steep, heavily timbered mountains that climb 4000’+ from the bottom of the valley mostly block from view of the three nearby Cascade Volcanoes: Mount Rainier, Mount Adams, and Mount Saint Helens, but once in the mountains that make up the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, views of the entire Cascade volcanoes from Mount Baker south to Mount Jefferson can be found.

The valley is bucolic: small farms, vast flat green pastures, and scattered homes. The community of Randle offers limited services: gas, a library, four restaurants, a dentist, a medical clinic, a pie shop, and a small grocery store, but more amenities are located within a 20-minute drive in Packwood or Morton. Essentials can be found, in nearby large towns of Chehalis, 60 minutes, Yakima or Olympia, 90-minutes, or Portland, 2-hours.

Climate: The Cowlitz Valley is at 960’ elevation. We experience a Mediterranean climate with an average annual precipitation of approximately 60” falling mainly as rain from October through June. In the mountains, the precipitation falls primarily as snow, which usually leads to very deep mountain snowpack. Summers can seem short, usually appearing in late-June and lasting through August. The fall actually brings colors as the cottonwoods, bigleaf maple, and other deciduous trees turn bright yellow, orange, and red. The days of summer are long with 15+ hours of daylight, but the winter can seem dark, with slightly more than 8 hours of daylight.
Recreation: Lying within a triangle of three volcanoes, Randle is on US Highway 12 which provides convenient access to the east and west entries to Mount Rainier National Park. Mount Adams lies to the southeast and the awe-inspiring Mount St. Helens is just 26 miles to the southwest. Gifford Pinchot National Forest offers tremendous outdoor recreation opportunities including camping, hiking, mountain biking, mountain climbing, fishing, cross-country and downhill skiing, whitewater rafting, snowmobiling, horseback riding, hunting, boating, and much more. White Pass Ski area is a 45 minute drive from the District office.

Education: There are two elementary schools within the area and one high school. Elementary schools are located in Randle and Morton (17 miles to the west). White Pass High School is located in Randle. An extension for Centralia College is located in Morton 17 miles to the west.

Housing: Rentals generally range from $500-$800 per month. Government housing may be available. Purchase prices for 2-3 bedroom houses range from $100,000 to $300,000.

Health Care: A health care clinic is located in Randle, less than one mile from the District Office. Morton has a rural general hospital and medical center 17 miles to the west. Larger medical facilities are 65 miles to the west in Centralia including Providence Hospital.

Churches: There is a wide range of religious services available in the area.
OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

GS-0462-5/6/7 Forestry Technician (Timber Stand Improvement)
Permanent Seasonal Position (18/8)

Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, Randle, WA
Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Please reply March 9, 2020.

NAME: ______________________________________________________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _________________________________________________
MAILING ADDRESS: ________________________________________________
TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____________________________________________
GOVERNMENT AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: USFS____ BLM____ OTHER____
TYPE OF CURRENT APPOINTMENT: PERMANENT____ TEMPORARY____ TERM____ OTHER____
CURRENT AGENCY/REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT: _______________________
CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: ________________________________
CURRENT POSITION TITLE: _________________________________________

If not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities?

___ PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
___ VETERANS RECRUITMENT ACT
___ DISABLED VETERAN W/ 30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
___ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
___ FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
___ PATHWAYS PROGRAM
___ LAND MANAGEMENT WORKFORCE FLEXIBILITY ACT
___ OTHER ________________________________

Please send this completed form and any relevant attachments to james.donahey@usda.gov
or fax to (360) 497-1132 or mail to Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Attn: James Donahey, PO Box 670, Randle, WA 98377.

Thank you for your interest in our vacancy.

USDA Gifford Pinchot National Forest is an equal opportunity employer. The Cowlitz Valley Ranger District seeks an individual who will personally and enthusiastically contribute to a team that values diverse perspectives and experiences. We strive to foster ethnic and cultural diversity and we find joy in caring for the land and serving people.