USACE Job Opening – Biologist, Environmental Planning Branch

- Open & closing dates
  10/01/2020 to 10/15/2020

- Service
  Competitive

- Pay scale & grade
  GS 9 - 12

- Salary
  $53,402 to $100,679 per year
  Salary range represents the lowest entry level through the highest, full performance level

- Appointment type
  Permanent

- Work schedule
  Full-Time

  Help

Location

3 vacancies in the following location:

  Rock Island, IL 3 vacancies

Relocation expenses reimbursed
Yes You may qualify for reimbursement of relocation expenses in accordance with agency policy.

Telework eligible
Yes as determined by agency policy

**Help**

**This job is open to**

- **The public**
  U.S. citizens, nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

- **Career transition (CTAP, ICTAP, RPL)**
  Federal employees who meet the definition of a "surplus" or "displaced" employee.

- **Military spouses**

**Apply**

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**Announcement number**

SWGG207689990007D

**Control number**

580522100

**Duties**
Summary

About the Position: This position is with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Planning and Environment Division North (RPEDN). Selection may be made at the developmental GS-09 level, GS-11 level, or the full performance GS-12 level. At the developmental levels, you will perform substantially some of the same duties as the full performance level, but you will perform in a training capacity and under closer than normal supervision.

Responsibilities

- Conducts and coordinates the preparation of plans, studies, reports, biological assessments, environmental assessments, mitigation plans, and ecological restoration involving wildlife, endangered species and other ecological considerations.
- Provides technical advice and assistance on specific biological or ecological problems to key managers and supervisors in the District.
- Reviews and analyzes correspondence dealing with wildlife or other ecological problems on Corps projects or programs.
- Serves as the Contracting Officer's Representative for contracts involving environmental impact analyses and studies.

Travel Required

Occasional travel - You may be expected to travel for this position.

Supervisory status

No

Promotion Potential

12

Requirements

Conditions of Employment
Appointment may be subject to a suitability or fitness determination, as determined by a completed background investigation.

Qualifications

Who May Apply: US Citizens

In order to qualify, you must meet the education and experience requirements described below. Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community; student; social). You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience. Your resume must clearly describe your relevant experience; if qualifying based on education, your transcripts will be required as part of your application. Additional information about transcripts is in this document.

BASIC EDUCATION: The below link contains the minimum educational standard from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). These standards describe the minimum qualification requirements (for example, education) for each occupational series.

Biologist, 0401 series
Ecologist, 0408 series
Fish Biologist, 0482 series
Wildlife Biologist, 0486 series

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE: In addition to meeting the basic education requirement above, to qualify for this position you must also meet the specialized experience listed below:

GS-09: At least one year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-07 level in Federal Service which includes: 1) Experience assisting with scientific sampling design, data analyses and/or interpretation of results from scientific investigations; (2) Experience writing scientifically technical documents on biological/ecological issues; (3) Familiarity with Endangered Species Act; (4) Familiarity with the National Environmental Policy Act.

OR

Education: Master's or equivalent graduate degree or 2 full years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to such a degree in a field which demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work of the position.
OR
Combination of Education and Experience: A combination of education and experience may be used to qualify for this position as long as the computed percentage of the requirements is at least 100%. To compute the percentage of the requirements, divide your total months of experience by 12. Then divide the total number of completed graduate semester hours (or equivalent) beyond the first year (total graduate semester hours minus 18) by 18. Add the two percentages.

GS-11: At least one year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-09 level in Federal Service which includes: 1) Experience with scientific sampling design, data analyses and/or interpretation of results from scientific investigations; (2) Experience writing scientifically technical documents on biological/ecological issues; (3) Experience applying environmental laws and/or regulations including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) to analyze potential impacts to natural resources from project activities.

OR
Education: Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree or 3 full years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to such a degree in a field which demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work of the position.

OR
Combination of Education and Experience: A combination of education and experience may be used to qualify for this position as long as the computed percentage of the requirements is at least 100%. To compute the percentage of the requirements, divide your total months of experience by 12. Then divide the total number of completed graduate semester hours (or equivalent) beyond the second year (total graduate semester hours minus 36) by 18. Add the two percentages.

GS-12: At least one year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-11 level in Federal Service which includes: 1) Experience with scientific sampling design, data analyses and/or interpretation of results from scientific investigations; (2) Experience writing scientifically technical documents on biological/ecological issues as well as writing technical analysis for NEPA documents; (3) Experience applying and implementing environmental laws and/or regulations including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, to analyze potential impacts to natural resources from project activities; (4) Experience conducting environmental consultation processes under the ESA; (5) effectively collecting, interpreting and exchanging technical biology information via letters, reports, and meetings within and outside of the organization.

You will be evaluated on the basis of your level of competency in the following areas:
Education

FOREIGN EDUCATION: If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities to meet the qualification requirements, you must show the education credentials have been evaluated by a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign education programs and such education has been deemed equivalent to that gained in an accredited U.S. education program; or full credit has been given for the courses at a U.S. accredited college or university. For further information, visit: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ous/international/usnei/us/edlite-visitus-forrecog.html

Additional information

- Male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must complete a Pre-Employment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration.
- You will be required to provide proof of U.S. Citizenship.
- Two year trial/probationary period may be required.
- Direct Deposit of Pay is required.
- Selection is subject to restrictions resulting from Department of Defense referral system for displaced employees.
- If you have retired from federal service and you are interested in employment as a reemployed annuitant, see the information in the Reemployed Annuitant information sheet.
- This is a Career Program (CP) 18 - Engineer and Scientist position.
- You may claim military spouse preference.
- If a MSP applicant is determined best qualified and selected, placement must be at the full performance level for priority consideration.
- Multiple positions may be filled from this announcement.
- Salary includes applicable locality pay or Local Market Supplement.
Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP). If you are a Federal employee in the competitive service and your agency has notified you in writing that you are a displaced employee eligible for ICTAP consideration, you may receive selection priority for this position. To receive selection priority, you must: (1) meet ICTAP eligibility criteria (2) be rated well-qualified for the position and; (3) submit the appropriate documentation to support your ICTAP eligibility. To be considered well-qualified and receive selection priority applicants must satisfy all qualification requirements for the position and receive a score of 90 or above. Additional information about the program is on OPM’s Career Transition Resources website.

When you perform a Civilian Permanent Change of Station (PCS) with the government, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) considers the majority of your entitlements to be taxable. Visit https://www.dfas.mil/civilianemployees/civrelo/Civilian-Moving-Expenses-Tax-Deduction/ for more information.

If you are unable to apply online or need to fax a document you do not have in electronic form, view the following link for information regarding an Alternate Application.

Situational telework may be permissible per management discretion.

Payment of Permanent Change of Station (PCS) costs is not authorized, based on a determination that a PCS move is not in the Government interest.

Relocation/Recruitment Incentive may be authorized.

How You Will Be Evaluated

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

Once the announcement has closed, a review of your application package (resume, supporting documents, and responses to the questionnaire) will be used to determine whether you meet the qualification requirements listed on this announcement. If you are minimally qualified, your résumé and supporting documentation will be compared against your responses to the assessment questionnaire to determine your level of experience. If, after reviewing your résumé and/or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and/or experience, you may lose consideration for this position. Please follow all instructions carefully when applying, errors or
omissions may affect your eligibility.

You should list any relevant performance appraisals and incentive awards in your resume as that information may be taken into consideration during the selection process. If selected, you may be required to provide supporting documentation.

**Basis for Rating:** Qualified candidates will be assigned to one of three quality categories: Best Qualified, Highly Qualified and Qualified. Veteran preference eligibles are listed ahead of non-preference eligibles within each quality category.

- **Best Qualified.** Candidates in this category possess exceptional skills and experience to exceed well above the minimum requirements for the announced position.
- **Highly Qualified.** Candidates in this category possess good skills and experience above the minimum requirements for the announced position.
- **Qualified.** Candidates in this category meet the minimum experience requirements for the announced position.

[Read more]

**Background checks and security clearance**

- **Security clearance**
  - **Other**

- **Drug test required**
  - **No**

- **Position sensitivity and risk**
  - **Non-sensitive (NS)/Low Risk**

- **Trust determination process**

- **Required Documents**
  - **Help**

The documents you are required to submit vary based on whether or not you are eligible for preference in federal employment. A complete description of preference categories and the associated required documents is in the [Applicant](#)
Checklist (External).

As described above, your complete application includes your resume, your responses to the online questionnaire, and documents which prove your eligibility to apply. **If you fail to provide these documents, you will be marked as having an incomplete application package and you will not be considered any further.**

1. **Your resume:**
   - Your resume may be submitted in any format and must support the specialized experience described in this announcement.
   - If your resume includes a photograph or other inappropriate material or content, it will not be used to make eligibility and qualification determinations and you may not be considered for this vacancy.
   - For qualifications determinations your resume must contain hours worked per week and the dates of employment (i.e., HRS per week and month/year to month/year or month/year to present). If your resume does not contain this information, your application may be marked as incomplete and you may not receive consideration for this position.
   - For additional information see: [What to include in your resume](#).

2. **Other supporting documents:**
   - Cover Letter, optional
   - Most recent Performance Appraisal, if applicable
   - This position has an individual occupational requirement and/or allows for substitution of education for experience. If you meet this requirement based on education you MUST submit a copy of your transcript with your application package or you will be rated ineligible. See: [Transcripts and Licenses](#)

**NOTE:** Documents submitted as part of the application package, to include supplemental documents, may be shared beyond the Human Resources Office. Some supplemental documents such as military orders and marriage certificates may contain personal information for someone other than you. You may sanitize these documents to remove another person’s personal information before you submit your application. You may be asked to provide an un-sanitized version of the documents if you are selected to confirm your eligibility.

If you are relying on your education to meet qualification requirements:
Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications. Therefore, provide only the attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Failure to provide all of the required information as stated in this vacancy announcement may result in an ineligible rating or may affect the overall rating.

- Benefits

  Help

  A career with the U.S. Government provides employees with a comprehensive benefits package. As a federal employee, you and your family will have access to a range of benefits that are designed to make your federal career very rewarding. Learn more about federal benefits.

  Review our benefits

  Eligibility for benefits depends on the type of position you hold and whether your position is full-time, part-time, or intermittent. Contact the hiring agency for more information on the specific benefits offered.

- How to Apply

  Help

  To apply for this position, you must complete the online questionnaire and submit the documentation specified in the Required Documents section above.

  The complete application package must be submitted by 11:59 PM (EST) on 10/15/2020 to receive consideration

  - To begin, click Apply to access the online application. You will need to be logged into your USAJOBS account to apply. If you do not have a USAJOBS account, you will need to create one before beginning the application (https://apply.usastaffing.gov/ViewQuestionnaire/10900008).

  - Follow the prompts to select your résumé and/or other supporting documents to be included with your application package. You will have the opportunity to upload additional documents to include in your application before it is submitted. Your uploaded documents may take several hours to clear the virus scan process.
After acknowledging you have reviewed your application package, complete the Include Personal Information section as you deem appropriate and **click to continue with the application process.**

You will be taken to the online application which you must complete in order to apply for the position. Complete the online application, verify the required documentation is included with your application package, and submit the application. **You must re-select your resume and/or other documents from your USAJOBS account or your application will be incomplete.**

It is your responsibility to verify that your application package (resume, supporting documents, and responses to the questionnaire) is complete, accurate, and submitted by the closing date. Uploaded documents may take up to one hour to clear the virus scan.

Additional information on how to complete the online application process and submit your online application may be found on the USA Staffing Applicant Resource Center.

To verify the status of your application, log into your USAJOBS account (https://my.usajobs.gov/Account/Login), all of your applications will appear on the Welcome screen. The Application Status will appear along with the date your application was last updated. For information on what each Application Status means, visit: [https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/how-to/application/status/](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/how-to/application/status/).

**Read more**

**Agency contact information**

**Army Applicant Help Desk**

**Website**

[https://portal.chra.army.mil/hr_public?id=app_inq](https://portal.chra.army.mil/hr_public?id=app_inq)

**Address**

GG-APF-W2R906 US ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ST PAUL
DO NOT MAIL
St. Paul, MN 55101
US

[Learn more about this agency](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/how-to/application/status/)

**Next steps**
If you provided an email address, you will receive an email message acknowledging receipt of your application. Your application package will be used to determine your eligibility, qualifications, and quality ranking for this position. If you are determined to be ineligible or not qualified, your application will receive no further consideration.

Read more

- Fair & Transparent

The Federal hiring process is setup to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

**Equal Employment Opportunity Policy**

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.

- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) for federal employees & job applicants

Read more

**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 process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants 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 to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits.

Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: