State and Private Forestry, Air Quality Management, in the Regional Office of the Rocky Mountain Region will soon be advertising a GS-12/13 Air Quality Specialist position. This is a permanent full time position, located in Golden, Colorado. Major duties of the incumbent include formulating, guiding, coordinating and evaluating National Forest actions and programs of Region 2 and Region 4 that impact air quality, and assuring proper protection of Region 2 and Region 4 wilderness areas. The incumbent will serve as the Regional expert and advisor for issues concerning management of air quality and air quality affects for NFS lands, interacting with other Federal and State regulatory agencies. The selected individual will formulate procedures for incorporating air quality management into Land Management Planning, and monitor current and emerging air quality research technology to determine application to National Forest operations and protection. Overall monitoring of air quality, meteorology, and biological, physical and social effects, as well as reviewing PSD permits, are included in the position’s responsibilities.

We encourage you to express your interest for our position by sending a message to Dawn Kerns at dkerns@fs.fed.us by July 16, 2003. If you would like more information about this opportunity, please contact James Kurgman at (303)275-5228. A vacancy announcement will be issued soon, and will be posted on the Office of Personnel Management website at www.usajobs.opm.gov.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Office is located in Golden, Colorado, 8 miles west of Denver and 10 minutes from the gateway to the Rocky Mountains. The Region has 12 National Forests and 7 National Grasslands within 5 western states (Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas). The Region employs over 1,600 permanent employees.

Apartment rentals start at $850. House rentals begin at approximately $1,100 per month. The median price for purchasing a home is $199,000; for purchasing a condominium is $110,000. Utilities are priced moderately.

Golden and the surrounding Denver metro area are full service communities. There are several institutes of higher learning in Golden and the surrounding area: Colorado School of Mines, University of Colorado at Denver (downtown), along with Metro State and Denver Community College; and private institutions including Regis University and the University of Denver. Elementary and secondary schools rank among the state's best. There are also private and church-affiliated schools and day care facilities.
The Denver Metro area has a large medical community, with a wide variety of specialists, and a great variety of clinics and hospitals.

Cultural opportunities include live theater, vocal and instrumental performances, art and history museums, including the Denver Zoo and Botanic Gardens; along with a variety of ethnic festivals and a full calendar of special community events. The Denver Metro area has a diverse and growing population due in part to the economic boom experienced here for much of the 90's, which continues.

The Denver Metro area has over 300 days of sunshine a year; summer days are sunny with an average August temperature of 72 degrees, and afternoon thunderstorms fairly common. Winter brings temperatures below freezing at night, but usually in the 30-60 degree range during the day, again with sunshine. There are approximately 5-10 snow events a winter, most of which are under 6 inches. The city is within easy distance of several world class skiing areas, and is within two hours of Rocky Mountain National Park. Golden is an hour from the world's newest high tech airport; has easy access to an incredible number of hiking and biking trails; and has at least 4 major malls, with an outlet mall within 45 minutes.

For mountain climbing enthusiasts, the challenge of 14,000+ foot mountains exists. For rock climbers there are too many opportunities to list. Colorado is centrally located so it is also easy to vacation in the other beautiful areas of the west, such as Yellowstone National Park (one day's travel); the Black Hills (one day's travel); parks and skiing in Utah (one day's travel); and the extraordinary sights of the southwest are also only 1-2 day's travel depending on your destination.