National Air Program Monitoring Coordinator  
GS-0401-1301-12/13  
Outreach Notice

Exciting National Leadership Position with U.S. Forest Service!
The U.S. Forest Service’s National Forest System is looking for highly qualified candidates to serve as the National Air Program Monitoring Coordinator for the agency’s Air Resource Management Program. Working in the headquarters office of the Forest Service, you’ll have the opportunity to make a lasting contribution to public service by assuring the continuation of high-performance air quality monitoring for the agency, and the availability of monitoring data and interpretive tools crucial to protecting air quality and for sustaining the health and diversity of America’s forests and grasslands.

Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, Rare Plants & Subsistence (WFWARP) Staff
The Air Resource Management Program is part of the WFWARP staff; a high-energy, high-visibility center of excellence within the Forest Service national headquarters comprised of top-notch, team-oriented biologists, hydrologists, botanists, ecologists, and physical scientists. The staff has responsibility for formulation and implementation of broad policies, programs, plans, standards and procedures for development and management of watershed, fish, wildlife, air and rare plants resources on the Nation’s Forests and Grasslands. There are two assistant directors who oversee and lead two staff groups encompassing Wildlife, Planning, TES, Soils and Air and Watershed, Water & Aquatic Resource Programs. Some staff are located in Fort Collins, CO and this may be an alternative option for this position’s duty station.

GS-0401-12/13 National Air Program Monitoring Coordinator in the Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants Staff
The National Forests and Grasslands encompass 194 million acres of public lands, including 340 Wilderness areas and 88 Class I Wilderness Areas. Air quality is essential to the health of people and the ecosystems managed by the Forest Service and is of great public interest. Effective and integrated management of this important resource on our National Forests and Grasslands is required by law and is a priority for the agency.

Duties and Opportunities Associated with this Position:
The National Monitoring Coordinator in the Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants (WFWARP) staff plays a key role in the Forest Service’s management of complex and challenging air
quality issues on a national scale. Major responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to planning, direction, development, evaluation and administration of all aspects of the agency’s air quality monitoring networks, data access, and data interpretation needed to manage air quality on the nation’s forests and grasslands. In addition to a working knowledge of air pollution causes and effects, current research, and pertinent laws and regulations (including the Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Wilderness Act) we are looking for an individual with proven leadership skills, with the ability to motivate those around them while being a team player.

Specific duties include:

- Providing national leadership, scientific expertise and expert recommendations to Department of Agriculture, USFS Washington Office and Field Units regarding agency-wide policy, current issues, and air pollution monitoring.
- Fostering relationships, collaboration and interactions with other resource managers (e.g. air specialists, hydrologists, soil scientists, wilderness managers) at the federal, state, local and tribal level and within the agency to integrate and share air related data that helps meet agency goals related to forest health and productivity, climate responses, water quality, wilderness stewardship, etc. This is an essential part of working for the Washington Office and accomplishing air program and agency goals and objectives.
- Coordination of agency efforts to sustain national monitoring networks including the IMPROVE visibility network, the National Atmospheric Deposition Program national trends network, camera network, and other instrumented sites. This includes providing input, oversight and leadership on the national contracts and agreements necessary to operate agency-sponsored air quality monitoring networks and conduct FS air program business.
- Providing infrastructure for regional and forest level ecosystem monitoring and evaluation of air pollution effects on terrestrial and aquatic, physical and biological resources, including training, protocols, access to analytical laboratories, quality control and assurance programs, data archiving, on-line data access, and interpretive tools.
- Reviewing, analyzing, and reporting on monitoring data (including surface water chemistry, lichen survey and chemical analyses, ambient air quality, visibility, atmospheric deposition) to assess status and trends in natural resources affected by air quality and climate change.
- Leading interagency efforts to quantify air pollution effects on ecosystems, and provide protocols and tools to ensure effective use of monitoring data.
- Updating policies and programs based on results from inventory, monitoring, and research information related to air pollution and resources affected by air pollution.
- Developing and disseminating national communication products, guidance and tools to monitor and assess air quality, assess air pollution effects, and report on air quality-climate change interactions.

This position directly supervises one employee.
How to apply for this position
This position will be advertised under either the Merit System (Federal government-wide) or the Demonstration Project (DEMO) authority. Under DEMO, interested individuals need not have present or previous status as a Federal employee in order to apply. The position will be advertised either as a GS-12/13 natural resource specialist (background in biological sciences) or as a GS12/13 natural resource specialist/physical scientist. Your reply to this outreach will help inform both these decisions. All potential applicants who respond to this outreach will be sent a link to the vacancy announcement when it is available. The vacancy announcement will be posted at http://www.usajobs.gov in May or June, 2020.

For more information, contact: Linda Geiser, program leader for Air Resource Management by email at linda.geiser@usda.gov or by phone at (541) 231-9452; or contact Chris Worth, Assistant Director – Wildlife, Threatened & Endangered Species, Planning, Air, and Soils Resources by e-mail at chris.worth@usda.gov or by phone at (202) 308-5429.

Community Information
A city of iconic monuments and idyllic vistas, Washington, DC commands attention from every corner of the world. As the Nation’s capital and the center of a metropolitan area that more than five million people call home, the Washington area offers unparalleled access to shopping, nightlife, restaurants, the arts, museums, sports, outdoor recreation, and more. The region, which stretches across portions of both Maryland and Virginia, has a strong economy, diverse and well-educated population, pleasant weather, excellent public transportation, top-notch health care, and myriad of educational opportunities. While Washington, DC may be the home of our Federal government, it is much more—a cosmopolitan city with endless opportunities that attract residents and visitors from around the world. (For more general information on the Washington, DC area, click here.)

A highly educated workforce and diverse economy hosting jobs in government, law, high-tech enterprises, scientific research, education, and more come together in Washington, DC—and the region’s economy is humming. The unemployment rate is just over 5 percent. Even at the height of the Great Recession, the region’s unemployment peaked at just 7 percent, well below the national average of over 10 percent. Incomes are high and rising and local property values are recovering. (For more on Washington area neighborhoods, click here.)
Weather in the Washington area is known for its mild springs and autumns, and the winter and summer months are relatively enjoyable as well. In the winter, temperatures normally rise into the mid-40s by afternoon, and, although DC can be walloped by an intense blizzard now and then, some winters see virtually no snow at all. In the summer, temperatures dip to near 70 overnight, and normally rise to near 90 by afternoon. Bountiful sunshine and blue skies are typical of most summer days.

This generally mild climate allows outdoor recreation enthusiasts to take advantage of all the region has to offer. There are numerous trails, greenways, and urban parks within the city itself, and the larger Washington region has paved trail networks, hiking trails, lakes, waterways, and more. National parks and forests are within easy driving distance, west toward the Appalachian Mountains. And the Atlantic Ocean is just three hours away. Or you can run your toes along the sandy shores of the Chesapeake Bay, just 40 miles east of Washington. (For more on outdoor activities within Washington, DC, click here.)

After exploring the great outdoors during the day, perhaps you’re looking for something to do at night. Maybe a baseball game. Or Broadway show. Dinner at a world-renowned restaurant? Whatever you want, DC has it—thousands of restaurants, clubs, and the highest concentration of museums and art galleries in the nation. Many of these museums line the “Nation’s Backyard,” the National Mall, a park and green space running five miles through the core of the city. (For a look at activities over a recent weekend in the Washington region, click here.)

Transportation facilities within the metropolitan area are top-notch, and include a subway and bus system that connects the city and its suburbs. There is a subway station just one block from the Forest Service office in downtown Washington, DC. Commuter buses and rail systems connect to the city’s subway and bus system and service the larger metropolitan area (public transportation...
subsidies are available to employees). Air service is also superb, with three airports serving the nation’s capital region. (For more on Washington’s public transportation, click here.)

Educational opportunities are among the best in the country. Excellent elementary and secondary schools can be found in almost any community, and many private and church-affiliated schools and day-care facilities are also available. There are also several institutions of higher learning in the immediate area, including George Washington University, Georgetown University, American University, Gallaudet University, George Mason University, Howard University, and Marymount University.

The region has a large and excellent medical community with a wide variety of specialists and numerous clinics and hospitals. George Washington University Hospital is a nationally renowned, interdisciplinary center, and Georgetown University Hospital is one of the most recognized teaching hospitals in the country. In addition, the National Institutes of Health is located in Bethesda, Maryland, just outside the city limits.