

## **USACE Job Opening – Biologist, Environmental Planning**

The US Army Corps of Engineers is looking to hire a GS-0401 General Biologist in the Environmental Planning Branch at the Rock Island District, located in Rock Island, Illinois. The position can be filled as a GS-7, GS-9, or GS-11 depending upon applicant qualifications. The position will be filled using a direct hire authority for recent graduates and individuals currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program. The position will not be filled through USA Jobs. Interested applicants should send resumes to Jodi Creswell (jodi.k.creswell@usace.army.mil) and Mark Cornish (mark.a.cornish@usace.army.mil). Recent graduates are individuals who have graduated within the previous two years (April 2016 or more recently) with a bachelors, masters, professional, or doctorate degree in animal ecology, botany, fisheries, wildlife ecology, zoology, forestry, biology, or a closely related natural resources field.

As a Biologist in the Environmental Planning Branch, you will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

- Environmental assessments to achieve agency compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and other applicable laws and regulations for planning, design and operation of civil works water resources development projects.
- Detailed site evaluations to establish base environmental conditions including identification of biota, characterization of the biological, physical, cultural and social phenomena present at the project site.
- Interagency coordination and collaboration on projects that may include field work, meeting participation, data entry, and preparation of correspondence.
- Preparation of technical reports, maps, and the application of habitat evaluation procedures.
- Development of procedures to implement directives from higher authority.

Additional detail on major duties is provided below:

### **MAJOR DUTIES (Full Performance GS-11 Level)**

Serves as technical authority for matters pertaining to endangered species, wildlife and other biological aspects of planning, design and operation of water resource development for civil works projects and programs.

1. Utilizing an extensive knowledge of the biological sciences with a background knowledge of wildlife animal ecology and physical sciences, independent plans, conducts and coordinates the preparation of plans, studies, investigations, reports, biological assessments, environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, mitigation plans, and ecological restoration involving wildlife, endangered species and other ecological considerations. Applies a high degree of skill in applying, adopting, or modifying methods, procedures and techniques to meet the needs of specific work situations. Performs or oversees field evaluations. Work requires extensive coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Environmental Protection Agency under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. In addition, coordination under the purview of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 is required with numerous local, state, and Federal agencies and other District elements regarding a variety of sensitive and controversial matters. For projects under construction and operating, prepares endangered species biological assessments and recovery plans, and coordinates these plans with Federal and State Natural resource agencies and other District elements as appropriate. Reviews plans, reports, studies, etc., of other agencies to determine adequacy and to determine feasibility of recommended measures for such items as plant and animal resources, establishment of wildlife populations, and other ecological or recreational features. Determines whether recommended measures are adequately justified. Comments as appropriate, and makes firm recommendations ensuring biological and ecological aspects, comply with regulatory and control requirements of legislation and of the Corps.

Conducts or participates in meetings with public and private interests to explain Corps proposed programs, emphasizing environmental considerations.

2. Provides technical advice and assistance on specific biological or ecological problems to key managers and supervisors in the District. Examples of certain problem areas would be endangered species program, terrestrial and aquatic habitat degradation, and activities associated with District's Civil Works Program. Reviews and analyzes correspondence dealing with wildlife or other ecological problems on Corps projects or programs. Replies to correspondence, personally contacting individuals or groups to handle the more complex problems when required. Provides expert testimony or serves as expert witness in court cases, hearings, investigations, etc., regarding biological or ecological matters. Exercises considerable tact and diplomacy, especially in dealing with groups or projects involved. Provides training and assistance to personnel in training programs and lower-grade personnel in Section.
3. Participates in the preparation of contracts involving environmental impact analyses and studies. Develops statements of work including approach, method and scope of project: provides technical guidance to contractor as required: evaluates progress reports for technical acceptability of approach and results and technically evaluates final product for acceptability.
4. Performs duties of a Technical Manager on Project Delivery Teams by representing the Branch and coordinating all environmental activities associated with the project. Supports Project Management in management of the project in accordance with Project Management principles.