



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: February 11, 2022

CLOSING DATE: February 18, 2022

POSITION TITLE: Biological Science Technician (Aerial Crewmember)

TYPE OF POSITION: Term Appointment with benefits, Excepted Service, Not to exceed 13 months (may be extended up to 4 years)

WORK SCHEDULE: **Full-time**, Maxi-flex, Monday-Friday with occasional Weekends, early mornings and evenings with occasional night work.

ANNOUNCEMENT #: **SDWSFY22-01**

SERIES/GRADE: GS-0404-5/6 depending on qualifications

FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL: GS-0404-6

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 1

LOCATION: **Pierre, South Dakota**

Travel, transportation, and relocation expenses will not be paid. Any travel, transportation, and relocation expense associated with reporting for duty to this position will be the responsibility of the selected employee.

SALARY:

*GS Locality Pay Tables can be accessed at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2020/CS.pdf>

GS-5 \$36,118.00 - \$46,953.00

GS-6 \$40,262.00 - \$52,341.00

In addition to salary, selectee will be eligible for Cost of Living Allowance based on location.

WHO MAY APPLY:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must be 18 years old
- If you are a male born after December 31, 1959 and are at least 18 years of age, civil service employment law (5 U.S.C. 3328) requires that you must be registered with the Selective Service System, unless you meet certain exemptions (proof of registration and/or exemption required). Website: <http://www.sss.gov>.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife
Services

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Resume (include days/months/years worked, work schedule, and grade level if federal)
- Transcripts (if qualifying on education)
- DD-214 (Member 4 copy) and/or VA letter required for applicable Veteran preference.
- Current active duty members must submit a certification that they are expected to be discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification is submitted.

HOW TO APPLY: Additional materials not listed above (i.e. position descriptions, training certificates, etc.) may not be considered. Applicants who do not submit the required items listed above may not be considered. Applications with all supporting documents must be submitted to the contact office and must be **RECEIVED** by the **CLOSING DATE** of this announcement, or they will not be considered.

Interested individuals should send a resume, transcripts, veteran documentation (if applicable) to the address listed here:

CONTACT OFFICE:
USDA-APHIS- Wildlife Services
John Paulson
2110 Miriam Circle, Suite A
Bismarck, ND 58501
John.d.paulson@usda.gov
701-355-3308

IMPORTANT NOTE: You may also submit your application via email at: john.d.paulson@usda.gov. For additional information you can call (701) 355-3308 and ask for John Paulson. If you should need the forms identified in the “Required Documents” section above, feel free to contact **701-355-3300** for a copy.

General Description of work: Incumbent will work in rural South Dakota assisting livestock producers with depredation from coyotes and red fox. The primary work will be serving as a crew member (gunner) conducting aerial gunning operations. Other work may include managing blackbird damage to sunflowers and corn by distributing abatement equipment to producers experiencing damage and other wildlife damage management requests as needed.

DUTIES:

As part of aerial team working in conjunction with the WS Pilot, responsible for organizing, conducting, and implementing direct control aerial operations within a large geographical area assigned by the State Director, Terrestrial Section Chief or Regional Supervisors to assist in management of predator damage.

Assigned areas are ranches, farms, and urban communities within the counties in South Dakota which are covered by agreements relating to the conduct of approved control methods.

Prepares and assists others in preparing and submitting routine and special reports regarding daily, weekly or monthly activities, observations, events and other relevant data.

Meets with private landowners, lessees, citizen groups or associations which seek predator control and negotiates local cooperative agreements.

Serves as an expert instructor and conducts demonstrations and training for others, including other cooperators or interested groups, on damage control methods, procedures, and program objectives. This includes preliminary instructions and training of new personnel on WS equipment, devices, firearms, reporting procedures, field responsibilities and other technical aspects of the program.

Responsible for reporting accomplishments, problems encountered, work locations, etc. to supervisor. Is entrusted with Government-owned control equipment for which an inventory must be maintained and reported, including locations, acquisitions, returns, losses, and reason therefore.

Must demonstrate a respect for the need for safety in all operations including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices, and equipment.

Must have a valid State motor vehicle operator license. Operation of a Government-owned or leased vehicle is required.

Performs other duties, as required.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To qualify, applicants **MUST** meet all minimum qualification requirements, except Medical Requirements, by the closing date of the announcement.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

For the GS-5 Grade Level:

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience (equivalent to the GS-4 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, federal) sectors which demonstrate experience in:

Perform wildlife damage mitigation methods and techniques.

Conduct lethal and non-lethal animal control techniques.

Conduct basic computer operations for record keeping, data analysis, report writing and correspondence.

OR

Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree with major study, or at least 24 semester hours, in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics, with at least 6 semester hours in wildlife.

OR

Combination of Education and Experience:

Applicants may have combinations of successfully completed education and specialized experience to meet total qualification requirements. The total percentages must equal at least 100 percent to qualify for that grade level.

For the GS-6 Grade Level:

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience (equivalent to the GS-5 level) that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, federal) sectors which demonstrates experience in:

Dealing with human-wildlife conflicts and principles of wildlife damage management.

Carry out and enforce the requirements of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Endangered Species Act, and National Environment Policy Act.

Conducting wildlife damage assessments, counts and abundance surveys.

Proficient in the use of firearms, traps, snares, pesticides, immobilizing drugs, pyrotechnics, electronic harassment devices, and other non-lethal control tools.

Create and maintain public contacts to formulate assistance strategies that incorporate technical assistance and operational control techniques.

OR

Successfully completed 1 year of graduate education (18 semester hours) in wildlife.

OR

Combination of Education and Experience:

Applicants may have combinations of successfully completed education and specialized experience to meet total qualification requirements. The total percentages must equal at least 100 percent to qualify for that grade level.

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED

Applicants who meet basic minimum qualifications may be referred to the hiring manager for selection. Qualified candidates eligible for veterans' preference will receive referral and selection priority over non-veterans.

Applicant may be asked to pass a motion sickness test flight in a small fixed-wing aircraft before being hired.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- Must obtain or have a valid state driver's license. Operation of Government-owned or leased vehicles is required.
- As a condition of employment, appropriate security clearance is required for this position.
- Position is subject to random and applicant drug testing.
- Must demonstrate a respect for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices, and equipment.
- In order to perform the essential duties of this position, you must have the legal and physical ability to possess and discharge firearms. You must be able to pass a government background check and meet any additional requirements to carry and use firearms. A background check will include answering questions about where you've lived, worked, went to school, and any military history or police records. Selection and retention in this position is contingent on a successfully adjudicated FBI National Criminal History Check (fingerprint check).
- Must attend Gunner school at Aviation Training Operation Center and pass safety and shooting proficiency test.

Emergency Response – APHIS is an emergency response agency. This means that all Agency employees may be asked or assigned to participate in rotating temporary duty assignments to support emergency programs at some time during their careers with APHIS. It is difficult to predict the frequency with which such emergency situations may occur – and could range from several emergencies in a year to none over the course of many years. In the event that you are called upon to support an emergency program, this may require irregular working hours, including overtime, and may include duties other than those specified in your official position description. While some emergency program support assignments may be able to be performed at the employee's current duty station, in other cases employees may be asked to go on-site to a temporary duty state location. In addition, it may be necessary for employees to participate in multiple rotations to an emergency program assignment. Attempts will be made to keep disruption to the employee to a minimum.

Failure to follow application instructions regarding filing appropriate forms and answering questions may result in loss of employment considerations for this position. **All applications must be signed, dated, and received by the closing date of this announcement.**

NOTE: APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO URINALYSIS TO SCREEN FOR ILLEGAL DRUG USE PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT. APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION WILL BE CONTINGENT UPON A NEGATIVE DRUG TEST RESULT. INCUMBENTS OF THIS POSITION WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO URINALYSIS TO SCREEN FOR ILLEGAL DRUG USE ON AN ONGOING BASIS AFTER APPOINTMENT, AS DIRECTED.

Carrying a firearm is a condition of employment – In the passing of the *Lautenberg Amendment*, Congress passed legislation which prohibits anyone who has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing a firearm or ammunition. If selected you will be required to sign the form, "Inquiry for Positions Requiring Possession of Firearms," certifying that you meet this criteria.

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.

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 and hiring process 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 in the workplace or the way things are customarily done that provides an equal employment opportunity to an individual with a disability. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) must provide reasonable accommodations:

- An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events.

Relocation costs will not be paid for this position.