



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**OPEN DATE:** 03-12-2018

**CLOSING DATE:** 03-23-2018

**POSITION TITLE:** Biological Science Technician (Wildlife)

**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, variable (maxiflex) including weekends, early mornings and nights

**SERIES/GRADE:** GS-0404-05/06

**FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL:** GS-0404-06

**LOCATION:** Various locations in the Missouri/Iowa Program including Southwest Missouri, Southeast Missouri, Kansas City, Saint Louis and South Central Iowa. (Relocation expenses will not be paid)

**NUMBER OF POSITIONS:** 25

**SALARY:** GS-5 \$33,394-\$43,414  
GS-6 \$37,223-\$48,385

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Wildlife  
Services

Missouri State  
Office

1714 Commerce Ct,  
Suite C  
Columbia, MO 65202  
Ph: (573) 449-3033  
Fax: (573) 449-4382

An Equal Opportunity  
Employer

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### 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>.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Resume
- 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.

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

**CONTACT OFFICE:**

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services – Missouri Iowa Program  
1714 Commerce Ct., Suite C  
Columbia, MO 65202  
[brad.jump@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:brad.jump@aphis.usda.gov)

**INTRODUCTION**

This position is located in the Wildlife Services (WS) Program, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The assignment involves the performance of duties relating to wildlife management and use of control techniques aimed at controlling wildlife damage, particularly that of predatory animals, when they conflict with man's economic interest, health or safety. The incumbent may be involved with several aspects of the feral swine elimination program. The ability to work independently is essential. Some of these positions will be located in home duty stations.

**DUTIES:**

Incumbent is responsible for organizing, conducting, and implementing direct control operations within a large geographical area assigned by the District Supervisor or State Director to control damage caused by avian or mammalian species.

Inspects and surveys areas and, as necessary, will prepare or revise existing programs. Assigned areas are ranches, farms, and urban communities within the county 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.

Incumbent 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, chemicals, firearms, etc., 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.

May participate in aerial hunting of predators as a gunner or ground crew member in areas where it is authorized by State law.

Must have a valid State motor vehicle operator license. Operation of a Government-owned or leased vehicle is required. Must be able to operate various types of small boats and canoes and be able to swim.

Performs other duties, as required.

## **SUPERVISORY CONTROLS**

Incumbent works under the general supervision of the District Supervisor or higher graded technician. Incumbent is given considerable latitude in carrying out delegated responsibilities and is expected to exercise individual initiative and independent judgment in determining courses of action, work priorities, or operational needs. The supervisor may be located a considerable distance and time away from work location and may not always immediately be available for consultation, review of area accomplishments, reports and records. Controversial items, highly sensitive issues, or critical problems which may have a detrimental impact on WS operations will be responded to and discussed with supervisor. Tasks will be assigned on a weekly or bi-weekly basis and the incumbent must demonstrate ability to complete tasks efficiently and with very little oversight. Incumbent is expected to independently resolve operational problems and/or propose solutions outlining recommended procedures, necessary equipment/material and duration of effort needed to effect solutions.

## **MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

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

## **QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:**

### **GS-0404-05 Level:**

Applicants must have 1 year of specialized experience equivalent in level of difficulty and responsibility to the next lower level (GS-4) in the Federal service. This experience may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sectors.

Must demonstrate experience in:

- Experience using lethal and non-lethal animal control techniques.
- Ability to identify various species of animals including feral swine and their sign.
- Experience in understanding the control methods, procedures, technical aspects, and objectives used for wildlife damage management.
- Experience to work within local, state and national rules and regulations as they apply to wildlife policies and procedures.
- Experience preparing reports regarding activities, observations, events, and other relevant data collected.

**OR** Education substitution at the GS-05 Level: A full four-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree with major study or at least 24 semester hours in any combination of courses, such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least 6 semester hours of courses must have been in wildlife biology, ecology, or management.

### **GS-0404-06 Level:**

All requirements of the GS-0404-05 level and Specialized Experience, as follows:

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience in level of difficulty and responsibility to the next lower level (GS-05) in the Federal service that may have been obtained in the private or public (local, county, state, Federal) sector.

Must demonstrate experience in:

- Experience conducting wildlife counts and abundance surveys.
- Experience in the use of firearms, traps, snares, pesticides, immobilizing drugs, pyrotechnics, electronic harassment devices, and other non-lethal control tools to manage wildlife and invasive exotic species such as feral swine.
- Experience in the preparation of wildlife management plans, informational materials, or similar documents.
- Experience providing technical assistance to customers to resolve wildlife conflicts.
- Contacting and developing working relationships with various parties, including but not limited to farmers, businesses, land owners, airports, natural resources, pest management, civil engineering, and other federal agencies.

**OR** Education substitution at the GS-06 Level: Completion of at least 18 semester hours of graduate level education with an emphasis on wildlife.

**Combination of Education and Experience at the GS-05/06 Grade level:**

Equivalent combinations of successful completed education and experience may be used to meet the total qualification requirements. The total percentage must equal at least 100 percent to qualify. TRANSCRIPTS are required if: You are qualifying for the position based on education. You are qualifying for this position based on a combination of experience and education. This education must have been successfully completed and obtained from an accredited school, college, or university.

- **OTHER REQUIREMENTS:** Must obtain or have a valid Missouri or Iowa 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.
- Ability and willingness to travel is required.
- Must have a knowledge of and be capable of using:
  - Working with the public and other cooperating agencies
  - Communication skills
  - Electronic equipment (GPS, Trimble, computer)
  - Animal capture devices
  - Firearms
- There is regular and recurring exposure to moderate risk and discomfort, such as adverse weather conditions and noisy environments.
- Work requires physical exertion, such as walking over rough or uneven surfaces, lifting heavy objects up to and over 50 pounds, bending, pulling, crouching, stooping, climbing, and stretching; must be comfortable or able to work at heights greater than 50 feet above ground level.
- 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).

**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.

**All candidates will be considered without regarding to race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor.**

**Relocation costs will not be paid for this position.**