

**Wildlife Biologist**

**GS-486-11**

**Permanent Position**

**Temp Promotion**

**Detail – NTE 120 days**

**National Forests in Florida**

**Ocala National Forest, Seminole RD – Umatilla, Florida**

The National Forests in Florida may soon be advertising to fill a permanent Wildlife Biologistposition for the Ocala National Forest in Umatilla, Florida. We are also considering Temp Promotion or Detail opportunities. This is a very dynamic and busy district that will provide you with a challenge but will also be very rewarding.

The National Forests (NFs) in Florida consist of a Supervisor’s Office and three National Forests. The Supervisor's Office of the NFs in Florida is in Tallahassee FL, a metropolitan area rich in multicultural history; the Apalachicola NF is closest to the Supervisor's Office, the Osceola NF is only about a two-hour drive, and the Ocala NF is approximately a three- hour drive. These national forest lands span almost 1.2 million acres in north and central Florida along with managing the 1,000-mile Florida National Scenic Trail, which is one of 11 national scenic trails in the United States.

**About the Position**

This position serves as the lead for the Ocala National Forest Wildlife Program and supervises two GS-09 Wildlife Biologists, one GS-09 Aquatic Ecologist, and one GS-07 Wildlife Technician. Highlights of this program area include the management of multiple federal threatened and endangered species including the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker and Florida Scrub-Jay. The Wildlife program area on Ocala is also responsible for: the Non-Native Invasive Species (NNIS) management program; management of multiple first magnitude springs and thousands of acres of freshwater lakes and ponds; managing bear-human conflicts in concert with the state; and coordinating land management activities with the timber, silviculture, and fire staff areas.

**Major Duties:**

Provides guidance for the development of wildlife management plans and/or habitat management plans. Reviews and recommends habitat management and improvement plans for technical soundness and adequacy in meeting overall wildlife management objectives. Ensures plans are implemented. Inspects habitat improvement projects for compliance with approved plans and recommends habitat protection or improvements. Prepares project work plans and coordinates project work with other Unit personnel taking into consideration wildlife habitat requirements in relation to other multiple-use management of forest and range activities.

Responsible for developing the annual program of work for assigned area. Ensures other program objectives are considered with the wildlife program. Plans and executes administrative studies and surveys to obtain information on the effects of forest management on wildlife populations, harvest, and movements. Correlates wildlife management with other resource uses such as timber, recreation, and minerals management. Plans, organizes, and implements wildlife habitat management programs, with emphasis on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. Coordinates wildlife management activities with other resources. Recognizes problems that may develop and recommends preventative or mitigative actions. Participates on interdisciplinary teams for evaluating the impact of Forest Service or non-Forest Service activities on National Forest lands. Reviews Out-Service reports and requests information pertinent to the wildlife resource and prepares recommendations or reports. Reviews Environmental Assessments to determine the adequacy of coordination of wildlife needs. Provides the analysis needed to assess the effects of management activities on Fish, Wildlife and Plant Resources and documents this analysis in an Environmental Assessment.

Prepares or reviews biological evaluations for threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Monitors wildlife program activities, such as a monitoring program for selected wildlife species to measure response to management activities, including annual surveys to determine the status of endangered, threatened, sensitive, and other wildlife species, and animal damage surveys. Prepares reports with recommendations as required. Provides leadership in inventories and evaluation of habitat conditions and needs for upland game, small game, big game, waterfowl, furbearers, and non-game species. Conducts and monitors special studies on the habitat of unique, rare, threatened, and endangered species. Makes recommendations for habitat protections. Provides assistance in preparing and reviewing environmental assessments and environmental impact statements affecting wildlife resources. Participates in the formulation and evaluation of alternatives and in the development of final recommendations. Provides functional assistance to other unit personnel to determine current progress in meeting planned programs and objectives, effectiveness of training, and opportunities for cooperative work. Develops or provides input into the annual program of work determining budgeting and staffing needs. Develops and implements wildlife interpretative programs and other means to promote the Fish and Wildlife programs on the unit.

**THE DISTRICT:**

The Ocala National Forest is located in North Central Florida between the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers. Encompassing approximately 383,000 acres, it is the southernmost forest in the continental United States and protects the world's largest contiguous sand pine scrub forest. Despite its high, dry, central scrub ridges, the Ocala National Forest is rich in water resources with more than 600 lakes, rivers, and springs.

The Ocala National Forest actively manages 3 globally imperiled ecosystems through a variety of vegetation management actions. Endemic and rare species recovery requires long-term flexible and integrated resource projects and partnerships. The district burns approximately 35-50K acres a year in support of the wildlife and hazardous fuels programs. Watershed protection/restoration projects are ongoing to protect the water quality of four major springs and provide clean water recharge to sustain Central Florida’s large and growing population.

The forest hosts a variety of recreation, scenic and historic areas. The recreation activities are as diverse as the environment, from canoeing in wilderness waterways to swimming in crystal clear constant 72° springs. Visitors can enjoy year-round camping, picnicking, fishing, birding, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding and four-wheeling on designated Jeep and ATV trail systems.

Within a sea of dense sand pine and scrub oaks, longleaf pine islands provide a different view with open park-like stands of trees over a diverse grassy groundcover. Wildlife species of interest include the Florida scrub-jay, indigo snake, gopher tortoise, sand skink, red-cockaded woodpecker, striped newt, and Florida black bear.

For additional information about the Ocala National Forest please visit: [Ocala National Forest - Home (usda.gov)](https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/ocala)

To Express Interest In This Position:

1. ‘Respond’ to the notice in the Outreach Database.
2. Email your resume and the completed outreach form (below) to John Dunlap, Forest Biologist john.p.dunlap@usda.gov
3. In the subject line please reference “Ocala Wildlife Biologist Outreach”
4. **Privacy Notice**: special hiring authorities may potentially require your personal information.

For more information about this opportunity, please contact John Dunlap, 850-545-8573 john.p.dunlap@usda.gov

When available, the vacancy announcement for this position will be advertised at <https://www.usajobs.gov/>.

<https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com/Outreach> - Website to search for Current and Upcoming Forest Service Job Opportunities

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| **Contact Information:** |
| Date: |  |
| Name: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Mailing Address: |  |
| Phone: |  |

| **Current Employment Information:** |
| --- |
| Are you currently a Federal Employee | Yes[ ]  | No[ ]  |  |  |
| Current Agency | Specify: |  |  |
| Current Appointment | Permanent[ ]  | Temporary[ ]  | Term[ ]  | VRA[ ]  | Pathways[ ]  | Other |
| Current Title/Series/Grade |  |
| Current Location (Region/Forest/District) (City, State) |  |
| **Do you qualify for any of the following programs?** |
| [ ]  | VRA – Veterans Recruitment Appointment Authority *(disabled veterans, veterans who served in a declared war, or in a campaign for which a campaign badge has been authorized, or awarded an Armed Forces Service Medal, and separated from active duty in the past 3 years)* |
| [ ]  | Prior AmeriCorps/VISTA *(persons are granted a one-year period to be non-competitively appointed to a normally competitive Federal position after leaving the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps VISTA with a certification of eligibility)* |
| [ ]  | 30% Disabled Veterans Appointing Authority *(disabled veterans who were retired from active military service with a 30% or more disability rating; disabled veterans rated by the Veterans Affairs as having a compensable service-connected disability of 30% or more)* |
| [ ]  | Prior Peace Corps *(former Peace Corps volunteers who have satisfactorily completed 3 years of continuous service into career or career-conditional permanent positions)* |
| [ ]  | Schedule A Disabled Persons Hiring Authority *(persons with physical or mental disabilities certified by the Veterans Administration or a State Rehabilitation Agency as eligible)* |
| [ ]  | Reinstatement Rights *(agencies may reappoint people previously employed under a career or career-conditional appointment by reinstatement to a competitive service position)* |
| [ ]  | Pathways Student Hiring Authority *(Internship Program: current students in an accredited high school, college [including 4-year colleges/universities, community colleges, and junior colleges]; professional, technical, vocational, and trade school; advanced degree programs; or other qualifying educational institution pursuing a qualifying degree or certificate; Recent Grads Program: recent graduates who have completed, within the previous two years, a qualifying associates, bachelors, masters, professional, doctorate, vocational or technical degree or certificate from a qualifying educational institution)* |
| **Additional Information - Briefly describe why you will be a quality candidate for this position: (Optional):** |