

**GS-0434-9/11/12 Plant Pathologist**

**The USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, Forest Health Protection** is conducting outreach for a plant pathologist position in Coeur d’Alene, ID. The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity for a GS-0434- 9/11/12, Plant Pathologist position. This position is located on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, Coeur d’Alene, ID. To express interest in this position, please complete the Outreach form and return it to Gregg DeNitto at [gdenitto@fs.fed.us](mailto:gdenitto@fs.fed.us) by the close of business on **January 30, 2015**. For more information contact Gregg DeNitto at (406) 329-3637 or [gdenitto@fs.fed.us](mailto:gdenitto@fs.fed.us).

***THE POSITION:***

This position serves as a plant pathologist, providing technical assistance and support to land managers on the identification, roles and management of forest diseases. The position is part of the Regional State & Private Forestry staff directly supervised by the FHP Coeur d’Alene office Group Leader. The incumbent works closely with entomologists, plant pathologists, silviculturists, and other resource specialists. This position requires extensive overnight travel and work in field locations. This position is permanent full-time.

***MAJOR DUTIES FOR TARGET GS-12 LEVEL:***

* Coordinates and implements all aspects of a complex major forest pathogen detection, evaluation, prevention, and control program for such diseases as dwarf mistletoe, root disease, and white pine blister rust.
* Exercises scientific judgment to conceive and conduct special evaluations, often collaborating with research, to gain additional specific knowledge concerning disease biology, ecological relationships, parasitic effects, survey methodology, or new control techniques. Implements technology transfer plans in order to make information available to specialists and resource managers.
* Prepares plans designed to meet technical objectives and collects field data. Processes and analyzes data, consults with other professionals, evaluates the results, and makes recommendations. Prepares technical reports and manuscripts.
* Provides site-specific, technical assistance concerning forest diseases to land managers, and documents this assistance in written guidelines which are incorporated into various resource project plans. Develops these management guidelines by identifying significant pathogens, determining the present amount of damage caused by the organisms, and exercising judgment in evaluating the actual or potential seriousness of the infestation. Where reduction of pathogen effects is desirable, develops current, effective, environmentally safe, and economically sound disease management alternatives which are consistent with specific land management objectives.
* Organizes, plans, and conducts forest pathology related training programs, presentations, or seminars, for various Federal, State, and private individuals, which are tailored to the specific needs and objectives of the requesting unit and involve summarization and presentation of complex, scientific forest pathology subject matter, or new forest disease research developments in a concise, understandable manner.

***BASIC QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS***

**General Requirement**

Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree in plant pathology; or a related scientific discipline that included at least 20 semester hours in basic botany or plant science, and 10 semester hours in plant pathology.

**GS-9**

2 years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to a master's degree in plant pathology *or* master's or equivalent graduate degree in a related scientific discipline or 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to at least GS-7.

**GS-11**

3 years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology *or* Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree in a related scientific discipline or 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to at least GS-9.

**GS-12**

1 year of specialized experience equivalent to at least GS-11.

***LOCATION:***

The position is located at the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Supervisor’s Office, Coeur d’Alene, ID.

***COMMUNITY INFORMATION:***

**ABOUT THE COEUR D’ALENE COMMUNITY:** The Idaho Panhandle National Forests’ Supervisors Office is located in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, a full-service community of over 40,000 people. Approximately 130,000 people live in Kootenai County. Located on the northern shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, the city is 100 miles south of the Canadian border, 33 miles east of Spokane, Washington, and an hour’s drive from the Montana state line. There are four distinct seasons, with summer average highs and lows of 82 degrees and 51 degrees; and average winter temperatures of 38 degrees and 26 degrees, with consistent amounts of snowfall.



Higher education opportunities are available. North Idaho College (NIC) is located in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and, in nearby Spokane, Washington, Gonzaga University, Whitworth University and Spokane Community College provide higher education opportunities. Moscow, Idaho is 80 miles south of Coeur d'Alene, and is the home of the University of Idaho. Washington State University is located just eight miles west of Moscow in Pullman, Washington. NIC, U of I, and other universities offer adult education classes in Coeur d’Alene and Post Falls.

Health care services include a full service hospital, physicians, dentist, chiropractors, optometrists, physical therapists, and mental health services at the Kootenai Medical Center. There are both active professional and volunteer EMT programs serving Coeur d'Alene communities. There are nursing homes and retirement centers within the community. Coeur d’Alene has a modern library with excellent reference and checkout books, and access to other libraries for patron-requested books. A local museum and historical society chronicle the area's history. There are several high schools within 5 miles of the office. There are many grade schools, middle schools and opportunities for private schooling exist in the area as well as in Spokane. Community day care and caregivers in private homes are readily available. Numerous banks as well as credit unions provide financial services to area residents. Professional and volunteer fire departments provide emergency services to local communities. A county-owned airstrip for private, charter planes, and emergency medical transportation is located ten miles north of Coeur d'Alene in Hayden, Idaho. Spokane International Airport is located just 40 miles west of Coeur d'Alene. Many professional, service, and special interest organizations offer area residents opportunities for personal growth and community service. Numerous churches of many denominations serve the community.

**RECREATION:** This area is often called "Lake Country" and Lake Coeur d'Alene and readily available National Forest lands are centers for recreation. Summer recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, motorcycle riding, golfing, boating and water skiing, and fishing. The area contains several hundred miles of fishable streams and numerous lakes. During the winter months, hunting, cross-country and downhill skiing, and snowmobiling are popular. Four winter ski resorts within easy drive of Coeur d'Alene are Mt. Spokane, Schweitzer, Silver Mountain, and Lookout Pass.



The city provides opportunities for organized youth sports such as Little League baseball and softball programs, soccer club, AAU basketball as well as City run recreational sports programs. A paved biking, jogging and walking trail runs along Coeur d'Alene Lake and extends 23 miles to Spokane, Washington. There are numerous theaters, bowling alleys, playhouses, and community sponsored events.

**HOUSING:** The standard cost of living in the Coeur d'Alene area is moderate. The median sale price of a home in 2012 was $182,000. Rentals average around $500-$1100 per month.

**GOVERNMENT HOUSING IS NOT AVAILABLE. RELOCATION EXPENSES WILL NOT BE PROVIDED FOR EXTERNAL HIRES.**

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!

**USDA Non-Discrimination Statement**

**Revised 6/8/2005**

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

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| NORTHERN REGION |
| OUTREACH NOTICE |
| POSITION TITLE: Plant Pathologist |
| UNIT: Forest Health Protection, Coeur d’Alene, ID |

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| **NAME:** |  |
| **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** |  |
| **MAILING ADDRESS:** |  |
| **STREET ADDRESS:** |  |
| **CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:** |  |
| **TELEPHONE:** |  |

**Are you currently a Federal Employee? Yes  No**

**If you are a Federal Employee, please fill in below:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agency: | USFS | BLM | Other |
| Type of Appointment: | Permanent | Temporary | Term | VRA | PWD | Other |
| Region: |  |
| Forest: |  |
| District: |  |
| Series: |  |
| Grade: |  |
| Position Title: |  |

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| If you are not currently a permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities? | | |
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| Person with Disabilities (A non-competitive hiring authority for hiring persons with physical or mental disabilities certified by the Veterans Administration or a State Rehabilitation Agency as eligible. Initial appointment is into an excepted-service term or temporary position. Upon successful completion of a 2 year trainee period, non-competitive conversion to a career or career-conditional permanent appointment is possible. (Schedule A Authority) |  |
| **Veterans Recruitment Act** (A non-competitive authority for hiring disabled veterans, veterans who served in a declared war, or in a campaign for which a campaign badge has been authorized, or awarded a Armed Forces Service Medal, and separated from active duty in the past 3 yrs. Initial appointment (up to the GS-11 level) is to a VRA excepted-service appointment with the possibility of non-competitive conversion to a career permanent position after a 2 year period.) |  |

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| Disabled Veterans W/30% Compensable Disability (A non-competitive authority for hiring (1) disabled veterans who were retired from active military service with a 30% or more disability rating or (2) disabled veterans rated by the Veterans Affairs as having a compensable service-connected disability of 30% or more. Initial appointments are time-limited, lasting more than 60 days (there is no grade restriction). However, the appointee can be non-competitively converted to permanent status at any time during the time-limited appointment.) |  |
| **Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 (**Allows eligible veterans to apply for merit promotion vacancies otherwise not open to external candidates without career status. Veterans are not accorded preference as a factor; if selected the VEOA eligible is placed in a career or career-conditional appointment.) |  |
| **Former Peace Corps Volunteer** (A non-competitive authority for hiring former Peace Corp volunteers who have satisfactorily completed 3 years of continuous service into career or career-conditional permanent positions. Former volunteers are eligible up to 3 years after their separation from the Peace Corp.) |  |
| **Pathways Recent Graduate Program** (A competitive authority for hiring recent graduates from qualifying educational institutions. To be eligible, applicants must apply within two years of degree or certificate completion (except for veterans precluded from doing so due to their military service obligation, who have up to six years after degree completion to apply). |  |
| **Other (Identify)** |  |

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| Provide a brief summary of your qualifications for this position: |

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| R**eturn your completed Outreach Notice form** via email to Gregg DeNitto by **January 30, 2015** | |
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| Email: | gdenitto@fs.fed.us |
| Subject: | Plant Pathologist |

Respondents to this outreach will be informed by email when the vacancy is announced on [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).