

Pre-Announcement Outreach
Entomologist
GS-414-9/11/12
Southwestern Region (R3), Flagstaff, AZ

Outreach Notice for Recruitment to Fill (1 Vacancy)

Position Overview:

The Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service will soon be advertising to fill a permanent, full-time Entomologist on the Forest Health staff located in Flagstaff, AZ. The target grade is GS-414-12 and may be advertised as a GS-414-9/11/12. This position will be supervised by the Arizona Zone Leader. The major duties for this position include:

1. Plans and coordinates all aspects of a major insect detection, evaluation, prevention and suppression program with a complex of bark beetles and forest defoliators found in the Southwest.
2. Provides site-specific, technical assistance and information concerning forest health issues to the National Forests of Arizona and other Federal, State and Tribal lands.
3. Coordinates and conducts aerial detection surveys of forest damage as an observer in a small fixed-wing aircraft.
4. Prepares plans, organizes assigned staff members, collects field data, supervises field crews, processes and analyzes data, consults with other professionals, evaluates results, and makes recommendations to meet technical objectives.
5. Organizes, plans and conducts forest health related training programs, presentations or seminars for various Federal, State and Tribal agencies.
6. Serves as a team leader or team member of various integrated and cross-disciplinary teams.
7. Conceives and conducts special evaluations in collaboration with research relative to insect biology, ecological relationships, parasitic effects, survey methodology or new control techniques.

Overnight travel is **required** and can be extensive during the summer months. Most travel will be within Arizona. Normal color vision and stereovision are also **required** along with the ability to fly as a passenger & aerial surveyor in small aircraft without incapacitating airsickness. Aerial surveys typically occur in Aug-Sept, requiring approximately 15 days with flight time.

The Arizona Zone Office consists of 1 zone leader, 1 plant pathologist, 2 entomologists, and 1 biological technician. They maintain an active and full forest health program including all aspects of surveillance, detection, technical assistance, technology development, training, and prevention & suppression. The office is co-located with the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station on the campus of Northern Arizona University. This arrangement allows for interaction with natural resource research scientists with both state and federal agencies.

About Our Community

Flagstaff, Arizona is located at the intersection of Interstate 17 and Interstate 40, and is the largest city in Northern Arizona. As a mid-sized city, Flagstaff has approximately 76,000 people living in and around it. The city is also the regional center and county seat for Coconino County, the second largest county in the 48 contiguous states. The City of Flagstaff, becoming a town in 1894, incorporated as a city in 1928, and currently comprising of just over 64 square miles, is nestled at the base of the San Francisco Peaks and surrounded by one of the largest pine forests on earth. Flagstaff drew its name from a very tall pine tree made into a flagpole in 1876 to celebrate our nation's centennial. At nearly 7,000 feet, Flagstaff is also one of the highest elevation cities in the United States. The city is a year-round mecca for visitors and many Arizonans maintain second homes here.

NAU, the largest employer in the City, has a major economic impact annually. The campus is used year-round and hosts many professional athletes, e.g., Arizona Cardinals and Phoenix Suns, and Olympic athletes that choose Flagstaff as training site because of the climate, altitude, and available facilities.

Five business and industrial parks are situated with excellent access to the Interstates (I-40 and I-17). One additional site resides within 15 miles of the City limits. Major manufacturers include W.L. Gore & Associates (of Gortex renown), manufacturer of medical equipment; Nestle Purina Petcare Products, manufacturer of pet food; SCA Tissue, manufacturer of tissue paper; and Joy Cone, manufacturer of ice cream cones.

Housing

The cost of housing in Flagstaff ranges from \$110,000 and up. Private housing, rentals, and apartments are available but thought to be in the expensive range depending upon where you are moving from. Single family homes usually range in prices from \$250,000 to \$450,000 (average home). Two bedroom apartments can range at the lower end from \$1000 to \$1200 a month to rent. Flagstaff has excellent choices of real estate companies and real estate agents with which to work. No government housing is available.

Weather

Flagstaff enjoys four distinct seasons. Moderate summer temperatures average twenty degrees less than Phoenix, and are punctuated with afternoon rain showers in July and August. The winter brings an average annual snowfall of 99.5 inches, much to the enjoyment of skiers, ice skaters and snowboarders. As the snow thaws into spring, blooming wildflowers are abundant and fragrant along Flagstaff's many hiking trails. Autumn is highlighted with the changing of the aspen leaves that transform the surrounding mountains into a golden tapestry of color. Flagstaff averages 283 days without precipitation each year, so it is not surprising that our residents love the great outdoors, and the mild climate encourages year-round outdoor activities.

Education

Flagstaff Unified School District #1 has 7 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 2 alternative schools, 5 magnet schools, and 2 high schools. In addition to the public school system, there are 10 charter schools run by private parties. These schools provide educational opportunities for children in kindergarten to high school. The schools specialize in everything from specific learning styles to programs focused on the Arts.

Coconino County Community College offers 33 associate degrees, 29 certificate programs, continuing education, and special programs for small businesses. Flagstaff's commitment to education is enhanced by Northern Arizona University's contribution to the community. Established in 1899, NAU is one of Arizona's three state universities.

Cultural Opportunities and Scenic Attractions

Flagstaff serves as the cultural hub of Northern Arizona. Because arts and cultural activities enhance the quality of life and have an economic impact, the City supports these endeavors. Funding support for these activities comes from the Bed, Board and Booze tax, and the General Fund. The Arts and Science Commission will disburse these funds.

Throughout the year, there are art shows, festivals, live theater performances, and Native American arts and crafts exhibits to satisfy the most ardent enthusiast.

The Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra is a non-profit corporation dedicated to bringing world-class musical performances to their audiences, and to providing innovative programs in music education for youth across northern Arizona. The FSO conducts six concerts from September through April form the core of the Symphony's season, with additional Young People's Concerts for children in the Flagstaff Unified School District, and a Lollipop concert in December for families with young children. Regular concerts are held in 1500-seat Ardrey Auditorium on the campus of Northern Arizona University.

Lowell Observatory was founded in 1894 by Boston mathematician Percival Lowell. Best known for the discovery of Pluto, Lowell Observatory is also where astronomer V.M. Slipher gathered the first evidence that the universe is expanding. The Observatory also maintains a vigorous education and outreach program, headquartered in the Steele Visitor Center on Mars Hill. Each year, about 70,000 people visit the Observatory to learn about astronomy by participating in multimedia programs, private and school programs, special events, and other educational activities. The Observatory offers daily-guided tours and evening programs.

The Museum of Northern Arizona offers internationally recognition exhibits in archeology, ethnology, geology, biology, and fine art of the Colorado Plateau. Four especially notable exhibitions, which attract national and international visitors, include the annual Zuni, Hopi, Navajo, and Hispanic Exhibitions with contemporary and traditional pottery, weaving, jewelry, and sand paintings, as well as native artist demonstrations and traditional dance.

Known as the "City of Seven Wonders," Flagstaff attracts millions of tourists each year due to its easy access to such scenic destinations as the Grand Canyon, Sunset Crater, Oak Creek Canyon, Meteor Crater, Walnut Canyon, Wupatki National Monument, and the San Francisco Peaks.

Churches

All denominations of religion are well represented in the Flagstaff area.

Shopping

Flagstaff has an array of shopping centers, including; Target, Wal-Mart, Walgreens and other drug stores, auto parts stores, hardware stores, Home Depot, Sam's Club and the Flagstaff Mall with a wide selection of department stores such as, Dillard's, Sears and JC Penny's. There are a wide variety of grocery stores and several health food stores.

Downtown Flagstaff recently experienced revitalization as part of the Main Street USA program, and features many quaint shops and galleries.

Transportation

Flagstaff is a major crossroads for the west. Interstates 17 and 40 provide road access to major west coast markets, including San Francisco, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, El Paso, Los Angeles, San Diego, parts of Mexico, and of course, Phoenix and Tucson. US Highway 89 provides access to the states north of Arizona and Highway 180 provides access to the Grand Canyon.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway serves the city of Flagstaff with more than 100 trains passing through town daily. Amtrak also services Flagstaff twice daily connecting with Los Angeles and Chicago. Bus services are available for within the city (Mountain Line), intra and interstate (Greyhound), and several tour guide companies provided service around Northern Arizona. In addition, there are several taxicab companies.

Flagstaff Pulliam Airport, located four miles south of downtown Flagstaff on I-17, provides frequent daily flights to and from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport where national and international connections can be made.

Additionally, the City is committed to the development of a non-motorized urban trail network (FUTS), which will interconnect virtually all areas of the City when completed and will serve as an important transportation element as well as a recreation amenity. The current draft of the proposed City/County regional plan shows an estimated 55 miles of FUTS. The City has completed approximately 32.8 miles to date.

Medical

Flagstaff has an extensive array of medical facilities and resources in the areas of traditional, integrative and alternative healthcare. Flagstaff Medical Center is the Northern Arizona Regional referral center for trauma, cancer, rehabilitation, cardiac care, high-risk maternal/fetal, MRI/CT scan, and more. More than 148 physicians are on active staff at the hospital, representing 36 medical specialties.

Recreation

The City is surrounded by coniferous forests, which allow for an array of outdoor sports and camping and backpacking opportunities. Downhill skiers enjoy 32 runs down the San Francisco Peaks, just 14 miles from downtown Flagstaff. Groomed trails at a nordic center provide over 40 kilometers of cross-country skiing. Endless miles can be skied on the hundreds of miles of Forest Service roads. Flagstaff even sponsors the annual Winter Festival that includes dog sled races.

Hikers, joggers, and mountain bikers will find miles of trails, which range from gentle grades to extremely difficult terrain. The outdoor sportsman will find opportunities for hunting and fishing. The individual committed to an exercise routine, which includes running, or walking will find a 2-mile track complete with a 20-station Vita Course at Buffalo Park, a woodland area atop a mesa with spectacular views of the San Francisco Peaks.

For those who enjoy organized team sports, the City has adult and youth leagues for softball, baseball, basketball, soccer, ice hockey, and volleyball throughout the year. Additional recreation amenities include the skateboard park and disc golf course, which provide year-round recreational opportunities.

City of Flagstaff: www.flagstaff.az.gov/

Flagstaff Unified School District: www.fusd1.org

Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce: www.flagstaffchamber.com

This outreach is being used to help determine the type of job advertisement that will be used to fill this position, i.e. to fill within the government and/or demo and at what grade level. If you are interested in this position please respond to the outreach reply. If you would like additional information, or have any questions concerning this position, please contact John Anhold, AZ Zone Leader, (928) 556-2073, or e-mail janhold@fs.fed.us.

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

Your response to this outreach will assist us in determining how this will be advertised and grade of consideration for this position, therefore, your response is very critical. Send your response by May 6, 2011.

Return Form To: John Anhold janhold@fs.fed.us **Fax: (928) 256-2130**
USDA Forest Service
2500 S. Pine Knoll Dr. **Office: (928) 556-2073**
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Job Title and Grade: Entomologist GS- 9/11/12

Location of Position being advertised: Flagstaff, Arizona

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: Work: _____ Home: _____

Government Employee: Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, name of Agency: _____

Current Duty Location: _____

Current Position (title/series/grade): _____

If no, Current Position: _____

Current Location: _____

Name of Current Employer: _____

Eligible for Other Hiring Authority (check one), such as:

____ Persons with Disabilities

____ Veterans Readjustment

____ Disabled Veterans W/30% Compensable Disability

____ Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998

____ Former Peace Corps Volunteer

____ Student Career Experience Program

____ Other _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST