



OUTREACH NOTICE

Wildlife Biologist GS-0486-09/11

USDA FOREST SERVICE – SOUTHWEST REGION (R3) FLAGSTAFF AND MOGOLLON RIM RANGER DISTRICTS FLAGSTAFF or HAPPY JACK, ARIZONA

“Caring for the Land and Serving People”

The Flagstaff and Mogollon Rim Ranger Districts anticipate filling a zoned Wildlife Biologist position on the Coconino National Forest in Flagstaff or Happy Jack, Arizona.

The Flagstaff Ranger District includes approximately 850,000 acres in Northern Arizona. There is a permanent staff of 92 employees (including two hotshot crews) responsible for managing complex and diverse programs including recreation, range, heritage, wildlife, timber, fire and fuels management. The Mogollon Rim Ranger District is located south of the Flagstaff District and is approximately 500,000 acres in size, with a permanent staff of 48 employees. The districts include expansive ponderosa pine forests, mixed conifer and spruce-fir forests, alpine tundra, canyons, lakes, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and grasslands. Humphrey’s Peak, the highest point in Arizona at 12,633 feet, and Mormon Lake, the largest natural lake in the state, are managed by the district. This area of the Coconino National Forest provides habitat for several threatened and endangered species, including the Mexican spotted owl and Little Colorado spinedace.

ABOUT THE POSITION

This is a zoned position that will work on both districts managing a heavy workload in coordination with biologists assigned solely to each district. The position requires the ability to efficiently complete analyses in support of other resource programs, while also pro-actively developing and implementing wildlife habitat improvement projects in cooperation with numerous partnering agencies and organizations. The position also supervises field crews conducting surveys and habitat improvement projects.

The successful candidate will be expected to:

Manage, coordinate, or provide technical support to wildlife, vegetation and biological resource programs and projects.

Develop or participate in the development of policy and planning for the organization.

Direct or participate in the inspection and evaluation of wildlife programs and projects. Administer or support the ongoing monitoring of wildlife studies, surveys, and activities to ensure program quality, effectiveness, technical adequacy, and compliance. Prepare reports of findings or contribute information to reporting documents.

Provide technical advice and assistance in the implementation and evaluation of wildlife resource management programs and projects. Consultations involve assessment of wildlife resources, species, habitats, environmental impacts, biological evaluations, and related regulatory requirements and compliance guidelines.

Participate in the conduct of scientific studies and projects, in management investigations, and/or in wildlife resource surveys.

For a full description of the position, look up the vacancy announcement below.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

An individual vacancy announcement for this position will be created and posted on the U.S. Government's official website for employment opportunities "USA JOBS". Those who respond to the outreach will also be notified by email when the vacancy announcement is posted.

OUTREACH RESPONSE

Interested applicants or those desiring further information about the position, can contact Mike Elson, Flagstaff District Ranger, at (928) 527-8231 or mtelson@fs.fed.us, or Brian Dykstra, Mogollon Rim District Ranger at (928) 477-5001 or bdykstra@fs.fed.us. Cary Thompson, Wildlife Biologist on the Flagstaff RD (928-527-8237, clthompson@fs.fed.us), may also be contacted for additional information.

ABOUT THE FOREST: The Coconino National Forest is headquartered in Flagstaff, Arizona. The Forest Service has two administrative offices in Flagstaff: the Supervisor's Office and Flagstaff Ranger District Office. Administrative offices for the Mogollon Rim Ranger District are located at the Blue Ridge Ranger Station, approximately 65 miles southeast of Flagstaff.

The Coconino National Forest is one of the most diverse National Forests in the country, with landscapes from the famous Red Rocks of Sedona to the ponderosa pines above the Mogollon Rim, up to the aspen groves and alpine tundra on the San Francisco Peaks north of Flagstaff. Elevations range from approximately 2,600 feet to 12,633 feet.

As one of the six National Forests in Arizona, and comprised of just over 1.82 million acres, Coconino National Forest consists of four districts which include recreational activities such as hunting, snow skiing and winter sports, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and off-road vehicle activities. The Forest itself is flanked on the southwest by the Prescott

National Forest, borders the Kaibab National Forest on its west side, the Tonto National Forest to the south and the Apache/Sitgreaves National Forest on the southeast.

FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA: Most people think of Arizona as being hot, with desert vegetation. This is certainly not true in Flagstaff. Flagstaff is surrounded by the Coconino National Forest.

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 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, is nestled at the base of the San Francisco Peaks and surrounded by the largest contiguous ponderosa pine forest 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.

Northern Arizona University is the largest employer in the City. 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.

HAPPY JACK, ARIZONA: The Blue Ridge Ranger Station is a remote station and sits at 7,000 feet elevation amidst stately Ponderosa pines. This office is one of two facilities on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District, the other being the Long Valley Ranger Station. Blue Ridge Ranger Station is located on State Highway 87, approximately 42 miles southwest of Winslow (population 4,000), 50 miles northeast of Pine-Strawberry (population 1,500) and 50 miles northeast of Payson (population 15,000). State Highway 87 links all of these communities.

There is a locally owned and operated grocery store/service station located 9 miles to the west of the Blue Ridge Ranger Station on State Highway 87. Within this complex are café, service garage, and a U.S. Post Office. On Forest Highway 3 (Lake Mary Road) there is an RV park/lodge/restaurant with camping facilities and duplex cabins for recreational rental.

HOUSING: The cost of single family housing in Flagstaff is considered expensive, though prices have recently dropped significantly. Rental housing and apartments are available but thought to be in the expensive range depending upon where you are moving from. Flagstaff has excellent choices of real estate companies and real estate agents.

Government housing may be available at the Blue Ridge and Long Valley Ranger Stations. Housing consists of duplexes, single-family houses, trailers and trailer pads for private trailers. The area just north of the Blue Ridge Ranger Station has several rural subdivisions that offer opportunities for home ownership.

WEATHER: Flagstaff and Happy Jack enjoy four distinct seasons. Moderate summer temperatures are punctuated with afternoon rain showers in July and August. The winter brings an average annual snowfall of over 100 inches, much to the enjoyment of skiers 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.

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. 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 Audrey 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.

SCHOOLS: Flagstaff Unified School District #1 has 9 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 2 alternative schools, 5 magnet schools, and 3 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.

Families residing in the Blue Ridge community bus their children to school in Payson where there are multiple elementary schools, a junior high and high school plus a junior college. Some students attend school in Winslow but must provide their own transportation.

TRANSPORTATION: Flagstaff is a major crossroads for the west. Interstates 17 and 40 provide road access to major 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 interconnects virtually all areas of the City.

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.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: 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 scans, and more. More than 148 physicians are on active staff at the hospital, representing 36 medical specialties.

Volunteer emergency medical services are available to residents, outdoor enthusiasts and travelers throughout the Happy Jack area. There is also a local volunteer fire department located 6 miles north of the Blue Ridge Ranger Station.

CHURCHES: All denominations of religion are well represented in the Flagstaff area. A non-denominational church is situated one mile away from the Blue Ridge Ranger Station in one of the local residential developments.

RECREATION: Flagstaff sports a multitude of outdoor and indoor recreation activities. Horseback riding, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, down-hill skiing, indoor pools, soccer, basketball, little league, baseball, softball and volleyball, are available for all age groups at very little cost to the individual.

City of Flagstaff Parks and Recreation Department and the Flagstaff Athletic Center East and West offer numerous indoor and outdoor activities. In addition, there is an extensive Urban Trail System throughout the area connecting the city with the forest trails system.

Nearby National Parks and Monuments include: the Grand Canyon, Montezuma Castle, Walnut Canyon, Monument Valley, Painted Desert and Sunset Crater.

LIBRARY: There is a community library in town which also serves the outlying communities with a book-mobile which visits different areas of the community, including Happy Jack, on different days of the week. The university also has a full service library.

MOTELS AND RESTAURANTS: There is no shortage of motels or restaurants in Flagstaff. Being located at the junction of two interstates (I-40 and I-17) and being the major community south of the Grand Canyon makes Flagstaff an ideal location for major motels and restaurants.

CONTACTS FOR MORE FLAGSTAFF / COCONINO N.F. INFORMATION:
Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce Website (www.flagstaff.az.us) or email (chamber@flagstaff.az.us). Coconino National Forest Website (www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino) or call us at (520) 527-3600.

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

Please complete the following form and e-mail, mail or fax to: **Mike Elson**, mtelson@fs.fed.us, Flagstaff Ranger District, 5075 N. Highway 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86005. Fax number 928-527-8288, or **Brian Dykstra**, bdykstra@fs.fed.us, Mogollon Rim Ranger District, 8738 Ranger Road, Happy Jack, Arizona 86024. FAX number 928-477-5057.

Position Title/Series/Grade: **Wildlife Biologist GS0486-9/11**

Location: **Region 3, Coconino NF, Flagstaff Ranger District and Mogollon Rim Ranger District**

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Date:

Address:

E-Mail Address:

Phone:

Current title/series/grade:

Are you currently a Federal employee? YES NO

IF YES: Current Agency and location:

Type of Appointment: Permanent Term Temporary

If you are not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities:

- Person with Disabilities
- Veterans Readjustment
- Former Peace Corps Volunteer
- Disabled Veteran w/ 30% Compensable Disability
- Student Career Experience Program
- Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998
- Other (please specify):

Questions?