**Northern Region Forest Service**

**Ecosystem Assessment and Planning**

**Region 1 NEPA Strike Team Fish Biologist**

**GS-0482-11**

**Permanent Position**

**Outreach Notice**

The USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, seeks candidates to fill a 120-day detail and interest in a permanent position as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) *Fish Biologist* for the North Idaho NEPA Strike Team, GS-0482-11. If you are interested in applying, please complete the following Outreach Interest Form and submit a resume to Chandra Neils, NEPA Strike Team Lead by January 7, 2022.

## Introduction

Three NEPA Strike Teams (Idaho, Western Montana, and Eastern Montana/Dakotas) were formed to increase the Northern Region’s capacity to complete land management activities related to restoration projects. The primary focus for these NEPA Strike Teams is to help the forests and grasslands increase the pace and scale of restoration in the Northern Region. The strike teams report to the Environmental Assessment Planning staff in the Regional Office, located in Missoula, MT.

The work of the strike teams will take advantage of Ecosystem Assessment and Decision Making (EADM) efforts to move toward regional efficiencies in our NEPA process. Results will support increased accomplishment of acres treated for core targets and assist in the performance element to decrease cost and time to complete NEPA analyses.

This position serves as fish biologist for the North Idaho NEPA Strike Team. Team members include a team leader, silviculturist, and wildlife biologist. Other supporting team members include a GIS Specialist, and writer-editor who support multiple NEPA Strike Teams. The North Idaho NEPA team supports projects on the Nez Perce-Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The incumbent is responsible for development, planning, and application of fisheries resource management and practices, including expertise in developing plans, analyses, and provides input related to the protection and management of water resources, including stream and lake surveys, biologic populations, productivity, hydrologic, physical and biological characteristics, endangered or critical aquatic species, habitat improvements, and water resource restoration. Assigned projects focus on fire and fuels, and vegetation restoration projects, including salvage.

**Duty Station**

Permanent: All Forest Service units within the associated geographic area will be considered and will be administratively determined based on response to this Outreach Notice. Possible locations include – Coeur d’Alene, St Maries, Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint. Transfer of Station (TOS) is not available. Lateral reassignment may be considered.

## Major Duties

Responsibilities include and desirable experiences include:

* Serves as a full member of the Region 1 NEPA Strike Team, supporting the interdisciplinary project development and analysis process for assigned projects.
* Participates on interdisciplinary teams for the evaluation of the impact of Forest Service or non-Forest Service activities on National Forest lands, and the development of land management plans.
* Develops plans and provides input related to the protection and management of water resources, including stream and lake surveys, biologic populations, productivity, hydrologic, physical and biological characteristics, endangered or critical aquatic species, habitat improvements, and water resource restoration. Provides recommendations relating to stream and lake habitat management, including streamside and riparian area management and in-channel work.
* Leads writing of aquatics specialist analysis and supporting documents for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents regarding the effects of stream flows, sedimentation, roads, stream shade, riparian reserves, Clean Water Act, Best Management Practices, and the PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion on fisheries resources.
* Independently conducts or directs surveys of the water resources of the Forest. These surveys include collecting original data, assembling previously collected records, and analyzing and evaluating all assembled data to develop long range prescriptions or plans for management’s use in watershed management.
* Provides oversight and coordination with the Supervisor’s Office (SO) for ESA Section 7 consultation activities for fish. Coordinates and responds to SO requests related to consultation and sensitive species
* Promotes understanding and cooperation between Forest Service, other federal agencies, State agencies, non-profit organizations, and special interest groups with respect to the management of fisheries and other water resources. Represents the Forest Service at meetings related to watershed and fisheries management.
* Familiarity with NEPA authority requirements and environmental analysis processes to provide the appropriate levels of documentation for various project planning efforts, including but not limited to wildfire resilience and forest health projects.

Travel up to 25% within the forests supported by the Western MT Team will be necessary to complete assigned projects.

## Contact

For more information about this position, please contact:

Chandra Neils, NEPA Strike Team Lead, Ecosystem Assessment and Planning  
USDA Forest Service, Northern Region  
3232 Nursery Road  
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815

Phone: 208-819-8490  
E-mail: [chandra.neils@usda,gov](mailto:chandra.neils@usda,gov)

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ATTACHED INTEREST FORM AND SUBMIT A RESUME BY** **January 7, 2022.**

## Northern Region Information

The Northern Region of the Forest Service consists of approximately 25 million acres of national forest land distributed within the state of Montana, Idaho north of the Salmon River, and portions of South Dakota and north eastern Washington. The Dakota Prairie Grasslands is located in North and South Dakota.

The Region is predominantly rural in nature with several small towns/cities serving as cultural hubs. There are no cities larger than 150,000 residents, and all metropolitan areas are moderate in population. Outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, skiing and snowboarding, hiking/camping, photography, wildlife viewing, site-seeing and other outdoor related pursuits are common activities of this area.

The northern Rocky Mountains form the backdrop of the western portion of the region, while the vast northern grasslands exist in the east. The upper Columbia River basin drains the west and the Missouri River basin in the east. Mountain ranges exist throughout the region except for the grasslands, and vary from steep, alpine peaks to moderate rolling mountains. Broad inter-mountain valleys are a key characteristic of much of the region.

**The Communities**

About the City of Coeur d’Alene and the Surrounding Area

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 from 38 degrees and 26 degrees, with consistent amounts of snowfall.

This area is often called "lake country," and Lake Coeur d'Alene is a center for recreation, as are the readily available National Forest System lands. Recreational opportunities are numerous, including summer activities of camping, hiking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, motorcycle riding, golfing, boating and water skiing, and fishing. During the winter months, hunting, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling are popular. There are four winter ski resorts within an easy drive of Coeur d'Alene, Mt. Spokane, Schweitzer, Silver Mountain, and Lookout Pass. The area contains several hundred miles of fishable streams and numerous lakes.

Coeur d’Alene and the surrounding area 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.

**OUTREACH INTEREST FORM**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM AND YOUR RESUME TO**

[**Chandra.neils@usda.gov**](mailto:Chandra.neils@usda.gov)

**BY January 7, 2022**

**Permanent Position  
Region 1 NEPA Strike Team Fish Biologist (GS-0482-11)**

**Ecosystem Assessment Planning Staff, Regional Office  
Missoula, MT 59803**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PREFERRED DUTY STATION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Other (please include): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CURRENT AGENCY: USFS \_\_\_\_ OTHER (please list) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ None \_\_\_\_\_**

**TYPE OF APPOINTMENT, IF CURRENT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE:**

**PERMANENT \_\_\_\_\_TEMPORARY \_\_\_\_\_ TERM \_\_\_\_\_ VRA \_\_\_\_\_ PWD \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ None\_\_\_\_\_**

**CURRENT POSITION TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE (IF APPLICABLE): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT (IF APPLICABLE): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE, ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AUTHORITIES?**

**\_\_\_\_\_ PERSON WITH DISABILITIES**

**\_\_\_\_\_ VETERAN’S RECRUITMENT APPOINTMENT**

**\_\_\_\_\_ DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY**

**\_\_\_\_\_ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998**

**\_\_\_\_\_ FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER**

**\_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM**

**\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**