

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland

Apply September 29 through October 6, 2022

Biological Science Technician (Soils) & *Hydrologic Technician*



Announcement #	Duty Location	Position	GS Level
23-TEMP3-R2-2694-3DT-DM	Laramie, WY, Saratoga, WY	Hydrologic Technician	3
23-TEMP3-R2-2695-4DT-MM	Laramie, WY, Saratoga, WY	Hydrologic Technician	4
23-TEMP3-R2-2001-5DT-CB	Laramie, WY, Saratoga, WY	Hydrologic Technician	5
23-TEMP3-R2-3418-5DT-HM	Laramie, WY	Biological Science Technician (Soils)	5
23-TEMP3-R2-6147-6DT-MG	Laramie, WY	Biological Science Technician (Soils)	6
23-TEMP3-R2-6377-7DT-HM	Laramie, WY	Biological Science Technician (Soils)	7

About the positions:

The [Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland](#) (MBRTB) are looking for enthusiastic candidates with an interest in soil science, hydrology, and land management to work temporary (seasonal) positions with the MBRTB soil, water, and air resources program during the 2023 field season. Openings are for a maximum six-month tour of duty (not to exceed 1,039 hours). The field season typically spans from May/June 2023 through August/September 2023 but may be adjusted based on availability of the candidate. No government housing is available.

The positions would primarily focus on supporting land management efforts on the Laramie and Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger Districts of the Medicine Bow NF. There may be potential to support projects on the Thunder Basin NG or Routt NF depending on project opportunities, workload, and Forest priorities. Camping or travel may occasionally be required due to long drive time, but crew members will be made aware in advance. Camping equipment and per diem will be provided as needed.

Standing dead trees often comprise the majority of these of stands and present fall hazards. Dead and down trees present tripping obstacles and often need to be climbed over, crawled under, or walked around while traversing the landscape. Strong winds and wind throw are common across the Forest and can come on quickly. Training and personal protective equipment will be provided to recognize and mitigate these hazards. Weather conditions can vary widely from hot and sunny to cold and snowing. Often during the same day! It can be physically challenging work, but it is also incredibly rewarding to contribute to sustaining Forest resources while working outdoors in a beautiful environment.

These are field going positions with approximately 80% of the workload comprised of fieldwork:

- Crew members will be expected to either work in pairs or independently, off trail and in rugged terrain, largely in lodgepole pine stands impacted by pine bark beetle outbreaks
- Driving long distances to work sites and on rough Forest roads should be expected
- Candidates should be prepared to hike 2-8 miles a day while carrying work gear over rugged terrain and through dead and downed trees
- For the soil positions, field work will generally consist of collecting soils and environmental data while traversing project areas. Crew members will apply general knowledge of soils, hydrology, geomorphology, and botany to collect qualitative and quantitative data using the Forest Soil Disturbance Monitoring Protocol. Data includes soil texture and structure, forest floor depth, coarse fragment content, percent slope, hillslope shape, and presence of woody debris. Crew members will be trained to identify erosion prone soils, areas susceptible to mass wasting and geologic hazards, wetlands and hydric soils, and remnants of past management actions.
- For the hydrologic technician positions, field work will generally consist of collecting hydrologic and environmental data while traversing project areas. Crew members will apply general knowledge of hydrology, geomorphology, soils, and botany to collect qualitative and quantitative data. Data includes mapping streams, springs, and wetlands,

identifying hydric vegetation, and surveying roads and culverts to support travel management plans.

The remaining 20% of the workload will consist of office work:

- Project preparation (drafting maps or conducting spatial analysis with GIS software)
- Data entry, management, and documentation of field observations
- Attention to detail and thorough data collection is important to ensure documentation is functional and accurate
- Potential opportunities for crew members to contribute to project or specialist reports may arise

The collected data is invaluable and will inform Forest Soil Scientists and Hydrologists on the existing condition of project areas. This information is used as part of the NEPA process to inform decision makers on how to approach project design with respect to resource concerns. Efforts will be made to provide crew members opportunities to assist and learn from different resource areas, i.e., soils, hydrology, botany, range, wildlife, or fisheries.

How to Apply:

Vacancy announcements will be open on USA Jobs between **September 29 and October 6, 2022**. All applications must be submitted through the [USA Jobs Website](#). Those submitted through other websites are not considered. Resources for help building your federal resume can be found [here](#) or through the [Forest Service Building a Federal Resume Webinar](#). **Applicants will be contacted December 2022 – January 2023 for selection.**

Search USA jobs for each position using the vacancy announcement numbers in the above table. Alternatively, the postings can be found by searching for the position with the location set to Laramie, Wyoming or Saratoga, Wyoming.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions about the positions, Forest, duty locations, or the overall hiring process to Michael.Kasten@usda.gov (Soil Scientist, Laramie), Lucie.Law@usda.gov (Hydrologist, Laramie), or Tanner.Timm@usda.gov (Hydrologist, Saratoga).