



Pacific Northwest Research Station
USDA Forest Service



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OUTREACH NOTICE September 6, 2022

Starkey Ecology Team (EPF)
Pacific Northwest Research Station
Research Wildlife Biologist
GS-0486, Grade 12 or higher
(Grade level determined by research qualifications of person selected)

Please respond to this Outreach by October 15, 2022

The Starkey Ecology Team of the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station anticipates advertising a Research Wildlife Biologist position, GS-0486/grade 12 or higher, depending on qualifications. This is a full-time permanent position with full federal benefits.

This position is located in the Forestry and Range Sciences Laboratory, La Grande, Oregon. This permanent position within the Starkey Ecology Team (Starkey) is part of the Ecological Process and Function RD&A Program (EPF), Pacific Northwest Research Station. The mission of this program is to advance and communicate knowledge of fundamental ecological processes and their interactions at multiple scales, and to develop applications of such knowledge that enable improved management of ecosystems and resources. As such, Starkey research is conducted with interdisciplinary teams of aquatic and terrestrial ecologists, hydrologists, entomologists, foresters, range specialists, wildlife biologists, and social scientists who focus on four problem areas: (1) How the biophysical environment influences the function and properties of ecosystems, ecological communities, species, populations and organisms; (2) Effects of climate change on ecosystem attributes, patterns, ecological processes, and their interactions; (3) Influences of disturbance on ecological patterns and processes, and how disturbances and ecological processes interact to determine the overall function, attributes, and dynamics of ecosystems; and (4) Determinants of ecological status and trends of biota and ecosystems.

The incumbent occupies a Factor IV scientist position under the federal Research Grade Evaluation Guide (RGEG) system of panel evaluation and promotion. The position addresses the four problem areas of the EPF Program by conducting research to provide managers with quantitative knowledge and associated models for managing ungulates and other vertebrates, particularly in relation to range, forest, and riparian restoration activities common to public lands in the western U.S. The scientist exercises proficiency in large-scale quantitative analyses of highly complex, voluminous data sets on animal movements, resource selection, and animal fitness in forest, riparian, and rangeland landscapes and associated wildlife habitats using spatial metrics and contemporary statistical methods. She/he publishes

research findings in a variety of formats ranging from peer-reviewed professional journals to non-technical bulletins and develops and maintains extensive collaborative relationships with professional colleagues and natural resource managers.

The scientist also serves as assistant leader of the Starkey Ecology Team, with the potential to take on full science leadership roles as Team Leader with sufficient training and experience. The scientist is a member or leader of several informal teams, which may focus on topics such as habitat-use modeling for ungulates at landscape scales; wildlife responses to stream/riparian and upland restoration; factors limiting mule deer recovery and recovery of other sensitive or listed wildlife species; responses of ungulates and other wildlife to climate change and predator-prey dynamics; and wildlife responses to land uses and human activities on forest and rangeland ecosystems. The scientist further serves as Chair of the Starkey Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee that oversees compliance with research conducted by the Starkey Team and its collaborators under the federal Animal Welfare Act.

All research is conducted in a diverse, broad framework of partnerships among myriad entities having a vital interest in wildlife populations, communities, habitats and land uses across the western U.S., including diverse collaborators within the Forest Service and other federal and state agencies, tribal nations, universities, and NGO private partners. The ability to collaborate and coordinate effectively with multiple entities, including a variety of public stakeholder groups, through all phases of the research, as a technical expert and coordinator, is paramount to the position's success. In particular, the scientist and the Starkey Ecology Team work closely with the wildlife research team of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in conducting ungulate, predator, climate, and other wildlife research in association with the Starkey Project (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/projects/starkey-project>), a 40-year partnership between ODFW and PNW Research Station. The scientist likewise focuses on continuation of a 50-year collaboration on grazing research with Oregon State University and publication of results using long-term data collected over multiple decades.

A key part of the incumbent's work is to plan, implement, and publish on-going research at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range and replicate sites throughout the western U.S. Work includes analysis of existing data sets, particularly regarding the effects of human, natural, and restoration disturbances and ecology on wildlife and a variety of other multi-disciplinary responses. Data often span 3-5 decades and compose some of the largest animal telemetry and spatial data sets collected for wildlife research. The incumbent also helps coordinate management of these long-term data sets to expedite their documentation and archiving to facilitate access and use by the greater scientific community.

An essential foundation for all work is a high level of demonstrated, quantitative skills in statistical design, data collection and management, and modeling and other analyses that typically require customized programming with use of R statistical software and other analytical programs. Demonstrated knowledge and experience in analyses of large, complex spatial data sets, and demonstrated expertise in use of R, spatial software, and database programs is required.

Applicants must meet minimum educational and/or experiential qualifications for the Research Wildlife Biologist 0486 series with the Professional and Scientific Group Standard at the GS-12 level. Current United States citizenship and valid state driver's license is required. Interested applicants, or those desiring further information, should contact Dr. Michael Wisdom, Research Wildlife Biologist, (541-962-6532, michael.wisdom@usda.gov) or complete the attached form and return by October 15, 2022.

Responding to the outreach ensures potential applicants will be notified when the position is advertised and helps the hiring team assess the potential candidate pool as well as identify any special hiring authorities that can be applied.

AREA INFORMATION:

ABOUT THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST RESEARCH STATION AND LA GRANDE FORESTRY AND RANGE SCIENCES LABORATORY:

The PNW Research Station is one of seven research units in the USDA Forest Service. The USDA Forest Service conducts the most extensive and productive program of integrated forestry research in the world. The scientific information produced by the station has application on public, private, and tribal lands in the Pacific Northwest (Alaska, Oregon and Washington) and elsewhere in the United States and other parts of the world. Scientists in the La Grande Forestry and Range Sciences Laboratory represent programs that address how natural and human-associated disturbances affect natural resources, and how disturbance regimes can be effectively understood and managed on forests and rangelands. The La Grande Forestry and Range Sciences Laboratory has a long-standing history of world-class ungulate research, largely conducted since the 1940s at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range, and of transferring that knowledge effectively and efficiently to land managers. Much of the incumbent's work will focus on continuing this high-quality research as part of a larger team of wildlife, aquatic, forest, and range ecologists, and social scientists who study a variety of facets of disturbance and restoration ecology and applications in management, as implemented in a knowledge co-production process.

Community Information:

La Grande, population 13,500, is located in northeastern Oregon at an elevation of 2700 feet. The community has 4 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school. La Grande is home to Eastern Oregon University, which offers Associate and Baccalaureate degrees and Masters of Science Degrees. A private business college also is located in La Grande. A wide variety of religious denominations are represented in the community. Grande Ronde Hospital serves La Grande and the surrounding communities. Recreational opportunities include backpacking, camping, hunting, fishing, swimming, tennis, track, softball, skiing, and river rafting. Apartment rentals start at \$500.00. House rentals begin at approximately \$1000 per month, and the median price for purchasing a home is approximately \$250,000. Utilities are priced in the medium range.

To be considered, applicants must be U.S. citizens.

Thank you for your interest in this position

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To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Outreach Interest Form

Research Wildlife Biologist GS-0486, Starkey Ecology Team
Pacific Northwest Research Station

If you are interested in this position and want to receive a copy of the Vacancy Announcement, please complete this form and send via e-mail to michael.wisdom@usda.gov. You may also FAX the form to Michael Wisdom at 541-962-6504. Please respond no later than October 15, 2022. The position will be advertised on the OPM USAJobs website www.usajobs.opm.gov concurrently and extending beyond when outreach is completed.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

EMPLOYMENT

Are you currently a Federal Employee? Yes No

If Yes:

Name of your Agency & Location: _____

Current title/series/grade: _____

Type of Appointment: Permanent Term Temporary

If No:

Current Employer: _____

Current Position Title & Salary: _____

Type of Appointment: Permanent Term Temporary

Are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities?

- Former Peace Corps
- Person with Disabilities
- Student Employment Program
- Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability
- Veteran's Employment Opportunities Act of 1998
- Veteran's Readjustment
- Reinstatement Eligibility
- Other