

OUTREACH NOTICE



Civil Engineering Technician or Civil Engineer (PSE) GS-802-5/6/7 or GS-810-5/7 Idaho Panhandle National Forests North Zone

Duty Location:
Sandpoint, ID

The North Zone of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) is currently seeking a candidate to fill a vacant Permanent Seasonal Employment (PSE) position in their engineering organization located in Sandpoint, Idaho. The PSE will work 18 pay periods and in non-pay status for 8 pay periods (18/8). The purpose of this outreach is to determine how best to advertise the position in order to get a robust pool of qualified applicants. Current options being considered are to advertise the position in either the technician series or the professional series at the GS-5 - 7 level. Response to the outreach will help inform the final decision on the best series to use and also the feasibility of pursuing a developmental position. To express interest in the position, please complete the Outreach Response Form at the end of this document and return to **Rick Driggs** at rick.driggs@usda.gov by the close of business on **June 28, 2019**. For more information about this position, please contact Rick Driggs at (208) 265-6637.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests will soon be advertising and filling a Civil Engineering Technician or Civil Engineer (PSE) position, GS - 802 - 5/6/7 or GS - 0810 - 05/07 on the North Zone, Sandpoint, Idaho. This position offers a challenging career opportunity for an individual seeking experience on a busy and complex zoned unit.

ABOUT THE ZONE: The North Zone of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) includes three Ranger Districts: Bonners Ferry, Priest Lake, and Sandpoint. The work will be spread over the three Ranger Districts based on priorities. The Zone Engineer, North Zone District Rangers and Forest Engineer will collectively approve a program of work to ensure the highest priority work is accomplished.

TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE PERMANENT SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT 18/8 POSITION: Please fill out the attached outreach response form and send to Rick Driggs rick.driggs@usda.gov by the close of business on **June 28, 2019**. The vacancy announcement for this position will be posted on the U.S. Government's official website for employment, www.usajobs.gov.

ABOUT THIS POSITION

Provides professional engineering input into the interdisciplinary planning process for natural resource development activities involving engineering projects.

Develops and modifies civil engineering plans and specifications for new construction or to improve utility, quality, appropriateness, and appearance of construction. Prepares original designs and preliminary and final layouts. Such projects may include road design, small bridges, retaining walls, major drainage structures, erosion control features, buildings, towers, equipment shops and yards, small dams and reservoirs, and recreation sites, or other comparable structures. Evaluates design objectives, identifies economic and efficient procedures. Develops design, coordinating with other engineers to ensure that all technical areas are covered. Prepares of special design specifications, cost estimates, and complete design package. Prepares or reviews Environmental Analysis, Environmental Impact Statements, and special reports with regard to new or improved engineering construction. Coordinates with other resource area specialists to complete environmental documents and clearances. Serves as Engineering Representative (ER) or Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) providing technical advice, recommendations and suitable alternatives to the Contracting Officer and Forest Officials. Participates in pre-construction meetings to resolve construction problems, confers with contractor's representatives about improvement or adoption of construction practices and procedures, oversees the development project plans and specifications prior to contract advertisement ensuring compliance with environmental requirements, determines practicability from a construction standpoint, and whether physical obstructions or other construction difficulties have been considered or if materials specified are readily available, and authorizes changes that do not modify the designer's intent and do not result in contract time or cost changes. Works closely with the Contracting Officer to obtain authorization for changes to contract requirements. Must be proficient with AutoCAD, ROADENG and excel spreadsheets.

NOTE: Certifications are required as a Project Inspector (PI) within one year of the appointment and Contracting Officer Representative (COR) is required for this position at the GS7 level. Forest Service standards for assignments to PI and COR are: 1) Certification on the National Construction Certification Program (NCCP) exam Roads, Public Works PI and Service COR written and oral board exams.

THE ORGANIZATION

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests <http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/> comprise about 2.5 million acres of public lands which lie within "the panhandle" of north Idaho and extend into eastern Washington and western Montana.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests are an aggregation of the Coeur d'Alene and portions of the Kaniksu and St. Joe National Forests. There are eight local points of contact including the Supervisor's Office, six district offices and the Coeur d'Alene Nursery. The Forest is within nine counties in three states: Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Kootenai, Shoshone, Latah and Clearwater Counties in Idaho; Lincoln County in Montana; and Pend Oreille County in Washington.

Major transportation corridors through the Forest are Interstate 90, U.S. Highways 2, 10, 95, and 95A, State Highways 3, 57, and 200. Amtrak, Burlington Northern, Union Pacific, Potlatch and Spokane International Railroads cross the Idaho Panhandle. The Spokane International Airport Spokane International Airport is the main hub for air travel (a 40 minute drive west from Coeur d'Alene). The Coeur d'Alene Airport is a general aviation airport located north of the city near Highway 95.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

The Sandpoint Ranger District is located in Sandpoint, Idaho is a vibrant community, rich in arts and culture. The population of the city is 7,365 (2010 census). As the county seat, Sandpoint also services much of Bonner County, population 40,877 (2010 estimate). A wide range of people make up the Sandpoint community; many are native residents – 30 percent were born in Idaho – but most were born elsewhere, relocating after experiencing Sandpoint’s friendly atmosphere and beautiful setting. This influx accounts for the area’s rapid population growth: The County’s population increased 44 percent between 1990 and 2003.

Surrounded by heavily forested mountains and nestled on the shore of the state’s largest lake, Sandpoint is known for its exceptional natural beauty. The town itself is attractive with many buildings of architectural distinction, several nice parks including City Beach and bustling events that reflect the vigor of the community

The Sandpoint area is rich in natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities. About 40 percent of northern Idaho is National Forest land, along with 65 percent of the shoreline of Lake Pend Oreille. As a result, camping, hiking, biking and other outdoor activities are popular in the area.

The weather in Sandpoint changes dramatically throughout the year, creating four distinct seasons. Summer temperatures, such as in July, reach average highs in the 80s and lows in the 40s. On occasion, the mercury spikes to 100, making it an ideal time to take advantage of the lake. Fall is a popular time for camping and sports activities; temperatures are cooler with long Indian summers, and the autumn leaves and beautiful weather make it the preferred season for many residents. Winter in Sandpoint revolves largely around Schweitzer Mountain Resort, which boasts an average annual snowfall of 300 inches. Winter temperatures, in January for example, average 26.3 degrees. The spring thaw brings warm weather and rushing creeks, making it a popular time for sports such as hiking and whitewater rafting. The rapid weather shift also offers the unique chance to ski in the morning in the mountains and golf in the valleys in the afternoon.

Lake Pend Oreille School District comprises Sandpoint High School – the largest of three high schools in the district – Clark Fork Junior/Senior High School, Lake Pend Oreille High School, Sandpoint Middle School and seven area elementary schools. Sandpoint High School serves around 1,400 students and is a focal point for the community, hosting sporting events, concerts and plays.

The area has numerous churches and religious organizations, with more than 30 in Sandpoint alone. More information about Bonners County and the City of Sandpoint can be found at [Sandpoint Online for Sandpoint Idaho](#) [Welcome to the City of Sandpoint, Idaho](#), and www.co.bonner.idaho.com.

Sandpoint, Idaho is located 32 miles south of Bonners Ferry. Coeur d’Alene, Idaho is the closest urban area (1.5 hours to the south), Spokane, WA (2.0 hours to the south), Kalispell, MT (2.5 hours to the southeast), and Missoula, MT (4.0 hours to the southeast).

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Outreach Interest Form
Civil Engineering Technician or Civil Engineer (PSE)
GS-802-5/6/7 or GS-810-5/7
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
North Zone

Candidate Profile

NAME: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: ___ USFS ___ BLM _ FWS
___ OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: ___ PERMANENT ___ TEMPORARY ___ TERM ___ VRA ___ PWD
___ OTHER

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT/UNIT: _____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: _____

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: _____

DUTY LOCATION _____ Sandpoint, ID

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

- ___ PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- ___ VETERANS READJUSTMENT
- ___ DISABLED VETERANS WITH 30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
- ___ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
- ___ FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
- ___ INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL ACT
- ___ OTHER _____

Briefly explain your interest in this position and attach a resume:

Respond by: June 28, 2019

Respond to: Rick Driggs at rick.driggs@usda.gov