



USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station

OUTREACH NOTICE

Hydrologist, GS-1315-07/09 or Geologist, GS-1350-07/09

Term position: 13 to 24 months

Duty Station: Arcata or Fort Bragg, CA

Reply Due: 1 June 2020

The USDA Forest Service, **Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW)**, is advertising for a term **Hydrologist** or **Geologist** in support of research at the **Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds**, addressing the impacts of forest harvest treatments on watersheds. The initial term is for 13 months and extension to 24 months or longer is anticipated and contingent on funding and satisfactory performance of the incumbent. If filled at the training (GS-07) level, advancement to the GS-09 will be considered after 12 months of satisfactory performance. To express interest in this position, please complete the attached voluntary **Outreach Response** and return to **Joe Wagenbrenner, joseph.wagenbrenner@usda.gov** by **1 June 2020**. ***All potential applicants, regardless of response to this outreach notice, will be required to apply via USA Jobs soon after the above deadline.*** The hiring manager will alert respondents via email regarding the opening on USAJobs.

Duties will include 1) field data collection throughout the year; 2) laboratory analysis of sediment and water samples; 3) office work including data management, analysis and archiving of hydrologic and meteorological data, writing reports and other communications; 4) planning and implementing a study on road erosion; and 5) communicating and working with state agency and university partners. The incumbent will work under the supervision of a Research Hydrologist. The position requires familiarity with erosion measurements and common data analyses techniques, an aptitude for scientific inquiry and writing, and strong interpersonal and communication skills. The demonstrated ability to independently complete a substantial research project (e.g., a thesis in a related field) will be given strong preference.

The Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds project is an integrated watershed experiment in California's coast redwood forests. The incumbent will be working as part of a team made up of Forest Service and external researchers and managers. Background information on the research project can be found at www.fs.fed.us/psw/topics/water/caspar/

A physical science background is required along with strong data management skills (Microsoft Excel, Access, R preferred), experience with GIS, and the ability to design and implement field experiments. Field work will be done alone or in small teams in a rugged forested environment, sometimes under harsh winter conditions, and will **require FS certification to operate motor vehicles and trailers**. Additional work will be completed in the laboratory and office in Arcata, CA. **A valid driver's license and a good driving record will be conditions of employment.** This is a federal government position so only U.S. citizens qualify. Contact **Joe Wagenbrenner at 707-825-2930** if you have questions.

About the Pacific Southwest Research Station

The Pacific Southwest Research Station is one of several research stations in the research and development (R&D) arm of the Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and works at the forefront of science to improve the health and use of our nation's forests and grasslands. Our researchers work independently and with a range of partners, including other federal and state agencies, academia, nonprofit groups, and industry. The knowledge and technology produced through basic and applied science programs is available to the public for its benefit and use.

The Caspar Creek sites are near Fort Bragg, which is located along the northern California coast about midway between San Francisco and the Oregon border. Historically a lumber and fishing town, Fort Bragg has become economically more dependent on tourism. Fort Bragg provides services for the coastal population of about 25,000, and hosts a hospital, public schools for K-12, a community college campus, and a variety of shopping facilities. Housing rentals range from \$1000-\$2000 per month.

The laboratory and several of the research team are located in Arcata. Arcata is a small college town of about 16,000 people in Humboldt County, about 2 hours south of the Oregon border. Traditionally, Arcata was part of Wiyot Native American land, until it was settled by gold miners in the mid-1800s as a supply center, and then a timber industry developed as well. Arcata is home to Humboldt State University, and most amenities are available in Arcata or adjacent communities. Rentals in Arcata average about \$700-\$1900 monthly. No federal housing is available.

How to apply

The purpose of this **Outreach Notice** is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish the appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the advertisement.

Individuals stating interest in this position will be notified when the vacancy announcement is posted on **USAJobs** so they can apply. **If you are interested in applying for this position**, complete the attached Outreach Response and return it to Joe Wagenbrenner at joseph.wagenbrenner@usda.gov **no later than 1 June 2020. Please do not send resumes or transcripts with the outreach response.**

This outreach form does not constitute an application. The vacancy announcement will appear on the [USAJOBS website](#). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Additional suggestions about applying through USAJobs:

Here is a link to the FS applicant tips: <https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs-jobs-applicant-tips.pdf>

- Pay special attention to the “Required Documents” area of the vacancy announcement. Failure to provide required documents could result in not being considered for the position.
- Pay special attention to the “Qualifications Required” area of the announcement and ensure that their application package addresses all items listed in this section.
- Applicants may submit their own custom resumes in any format. However, it is recommended that they build a resume in the USAJobs format offered in the USAJobs system to ensure the resume is formatted for federal employment and includes all required information. The USAJobs resume template will prompt the applicant to input information needed for federal qualifications assessment.
- It is highly encouraged that applicants supply month/year date – month/year date for each period of employment and indicate whether each appointment was full time, part time, volunteer, or intermittent **and include the number of hours worked per week**. **NOTE** that the work schedule is part of the requirements for the resume.
- If providing a curriculum vitae, please incorporate all resume requirements identified in the **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS** section of the vacancy announcement, or submit a supplemental resume which includes all information required in addition to the curriculum vitae.
- When providing transcripts, please provide them for **ALL** periods of education, not just the advanced educational degree programs.

- **Required Documents**

The following documents will be required as part of your applicant package. Our personnell office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, illegible fax transmissions, delays in the mail service, your system failure, etc. Encrypted documents will not be accepted. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

- A resume that includes: 1) personal information including name, address, and contact information; 2) education; 3) detailed work experience related to this position as described in the major duties, including: work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment, and title, series, and grade (if applicable); 4) supervisor’s phone number and whether or not the supervisor may be contacted for a reference check(or if we should first check with the applicant); 5) other qualifications.
- If education is required or you are using education to qualify, you must submit a copy of your college and/or university transcript(s). Unofficial transcripts are sufficient for the application; however, if you are selected, you will be required to submit official transcripts prior to entering on duty. To be credited, education must have been successfully obtained from an accredited school, college or university. If any education was completed at a foreign institute, you must submit with your application evidence that the institute was appropriately accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as equivalent to U.S. education standards. There are [private organizations](#) that specialize in this evaluation and a fee is normally associated with this service. All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.

OUTREACH RESPONSE GS-1315-07/09 OR GS-1350-07/09 PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RESEARCH STATION

If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete this form and return it by e-mail to Joe Wagenbrenner, joseph.wagenbrenner@usda.gov **no later than 1 June 2020.**

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

TYPE OF CURRENT APPOINTMENT (indicate one if applicable):

PERMANENT --TEMPORARY --TERM

CURRENT STATION/LAB/REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT (if applicable):

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE (if applicable):

CURRENT POSITION TITLE:

I AM ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL NON-COMPETITIVE HIRING AS (indicate all that apply**):

VRA (Veterans Recruitment Authority)

SCHEDULE A (Persons with disabilities)

REINSTATEMENT (prior permanent career/career conditional employees)

OTHER

I AM INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS (indicate all that apply):

GS-1315-07 Hydrologist

GS-1350-07 Geologist

GS-1315-09 Hydrologist

GS-1350-09 Geologist

**Note: a partial explanation of these authorities and the criteria that need to be met in order to be eligible for non-competitive hiring authorities, follows. Also see [OPM.Gov/Strategic Management of Human Capital](https://www.opm.gov/strategic-management-of-human-capital/)

- **30% or More Compensable Disabled Veterans:** Temporary and career opportunities can be provided to qualified disabled veterans who were discharged because of a service-connected disability or retired with a disability rating of 30% or more, and have been rated by the VA since 1991 or later as having a compensable service-connected disability of 30% or more.
- **Veteran's Recruitment Authority (VRA):** Allows for temporary and career opportunities for positions at grade levels through GS-11. Qualified veterans must be disabled or, have served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized or, received an Armed Forces Service Medal or, was recently (within the last 3 years) separated from active duty.