



OUTREACH NOTICE

National Forest System
Biological and Physical Resources
Air Quality Specialist/Physical Scientist
GS-0401/1301-13
Permanent, Full-Time Opportunity
Duty Location: Washington, DC

The Forest Service Washington Office (WO), National Forest System (NFS) Deputy area, is outreaching for an Air Quality Specialist/ Physical Scientist to serve as the Technical Specialist for the Air Resource Management Program within the Biological and Physical Resources (BPR) directorate area. This notification is circulated to solicit prospective applicants of this opportunity.

Bargaining Unit status will be determined by candidate selected, based on position organization and duty location. For specific direction, reference the [Forest Service Master Agreement](#).

The Position

The incumbent will serve as the Air Quality Technical Specialist for the Biological and Physical Resources directorate staff group and is supervised by the Air Resource Management program leader. The Physical Scientist in the Biological and Physical Resources (BPR) staff plays a key role in the Forest Service's management of complex and challenging air quality issues on a national scale. Major responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to planning, direction, development, evaluation, and administration of all aspects of the agency's air regulatory, meteorological, modeling, and mitigation needed to manage air quality on the nation's forests and grasslands.

Major Duties Include:

- Providing consistent communications with regional air staff, colleagues in other agencies at the federal and state levels on the air quality related regulatory topics for which the agency has responsibilities
- Representing national leadership within the federal land management and regulatory agencies and other leadership organizations such as the Regional Planning Organizations.
- Assuming leadership roles in the agency's NEPA air guidance update project.
- Strategic national level planning and communications regarding PSD, Regional Haze, project NEPA, and NAAQS conformity.
- Leadership on the development of national tools and training; provision of training as needed.



- Serving as the lead technical expert providing support to regional air staff regarding air quality analyses for NEPA projects.
- Supporting regional staff reviewing applications for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration including the review of CALPUFF modeling outputs for offshore wind projects to assist air quality specialists determine potential impacts to Class I areas.
- Representing the agency on Regional Haze Rule discussions and providing support to regional staff reviewing State Implementation Plans.
- Communicate agency position on regulatory and CAA aspects of smoke management.
- Support regional staff in modeling emissions and assessing downwind impacts from prescribed and wildfires.
- Providing national leadership, scientific expertise, and expert recommendations to Department of Agriculture, USFS Washington Office and Field Units regarding agency-wide policy, current issues, and air pollution regulation and mitigation.
- Fostering relationships, collaboration, and interactions with other resource managers (e.g., air specialists, hydrologists, soil scientists, wilderness managers) at the federal, state, local and tribal level and within the agency to integrate and share air related data that helps meet agency goals related to forest health and productivity, restoration, climate adaptation, GHG mitigation, water quality, wilderness stewardship, etc.

The Ideal Candidate

This individual should be familiar with current modeling techniques for emissions dispersion and deposition of the criteria pollutants, emissions calculations of greenhouse gases, emissions control technologies, and be able to articulate and defend the agency's position within the air quality regulatory community and with industry contractors. In addition to a working knowledge of air pollution causes and effects, current research, and pertinent laws and regulations (including the Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Wilderness Act) we are looking for an experienced physical scientist with proven leadership skills and the ability to motivate those around them while being a team player.

The Duty Location

The duty station location is located at the Washington Office in **Washington, DC**. This position is Telework eligible. Travel *may* be required for meetings and/or training. **If you have interest in this position but would not apply for it in the duty station area of Washington DC, would you consider one of the other preferred NFS offices – San Dimas, CA; Missoula, MT; Salt Lake City, UT; Denver, CO; Fort Collins, CO? If not, would you consider another NFS office or remote work status. Please respond to this outreach with locations you would consider.**

How to Apply for the Outreach

Interested candidates shall respond via the Outreach Database by **March 26th, 2023**.

Outreach Link:

<https://apps.fs.usda.gov/hrm/outreach/Outreach?id=6555C988C45B4610BA672DA4B1234161>



Public Facing Link:

<https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com?id=6555C988C45B4610BA672DA4B1234161>

If you experience technical issues with submitting your response, please contact **Betsy Burke**, (Business Administrative Support Services) at sm.fs.nfsrecotrch@usda.gov. If you have questions regarding the duties of the position, please contact **Linda Geiser** Air Program National Leader, at linda.geiser@usda.gov.

Important Reminders

As a courtesy, we make every effort to notify respondents via email when a vacancy announcement opens. However, the best way to get notifications of job openings is setting up alerts in USAJobs. We recommend having alerts sent to an email address that you can always access, such as a personal email, so notifications aren't missed when you are out of the office.

If you would like to sign-up to receive notifications of future NFS opportunities, please click [here](#).

By completing the request form, we will use the email you provide to send you notifications of all outreach notices for NFS. You can unsubscribe at any time by emailing: sm.fs.nfsrecotrch@usda.gov.