



Department: **Department Of Agriculture**
Agency: **Agricultural Research Service**
Sub Agency: **Range and Meadow Forage Management Research**

Job Announcement Number:
ARS-X6W-0323

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Overview

Research Rangeland Management Specialist or Research Ecologist

Salary Range: 62,291.00 - 113,791.00 USD per year

Open Period: Wednesday, July 26, 2006 to Monday, August 21, 2006

Series & Grade: GS-0454,0408-12/13/14

Position Information: Full-Time Permanent

Duty Locations: 1 vacancy - Burns, OR

Who May Be Considered:

Applications will be accepted from US Citizens, from current and former competitive service Federal employees, and people eligible under special hiring authorities.

Job Summary:

Find Solutions to Agricultural Problems that Affect Americans Every Day, From Field to Table

Serves as a member of a scientific research team with the Range and Meadow Forage Management Research Unit in Burns, Oregon. Conducts rangeland research to develop a better understanding of the influence of climate, landscape position and management on the habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species.

You must include a statement in your application that you are a U.S. citizen.

Key Requirements:

Duties

Major Duties:

As a research scientist serves as a member of a research team, which is charged with providing the scientific basis for sound land and livestock management. Overall assignment concerns the area of research dealing with sagebrush steppe habitat

ecology. Conducts research to develop methods for evaluating sagebrush habitat at different spatial scales; determines the climatic, landscape and management factors that are most likely to influence habitat quality for sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species; and identifies strategies for enhancing habitat quality for a variety of sagebrush-obligate species. Research results will be disseminated at scientific meetings and in peer-reviewed scientific publications.

Qualifications and Evaluation

Qualifications:

Your education and experience will be evaluated against all qualification requirements (basic and any additional requirements) listed below.

Basic Requirements:

All candidates must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level in the Federal service. A Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree that has provided the specialized experience may be substituted for the experience requirement at the GS-12 level. Additionally, the following education must be met to be basically eligible:

Research Rangeland Management Specialist, GS-0454: A degree in range management or a related discipline that included at least 42 semester hours in a combination of the plant, animal, and soil sciences, and natural resources management, as follows: at least 18 semester hours of course work in range management, including courses in such areas as basic principles of range management, range plants, range ecology, range inventories and studies, range improvements, and ranch or rangeland planning; at least 15 semester hours of directly related courses in the plant, animal, and soil sciences, including at least one course in each of these three scientific areas, i.e., plant, animal, and soil sciences. Courses in such areas as plant taxonomy, plant physiology, plant ecology, animal nutrition, livestock production, and soil morphology or soil classification are acceptable; and, at least 9 semester hours of course work in related resource management subjects, including courses in such areas as wildlife management, watershed management, natural resource or agricultural economics, forestry, agronomy, forages, and outdoor recreation management. **OR**

Research Ecologist, GS-0408: A degree in biology or a related field of science underlying ecological research that included at least 30 semester hours in basic and applied biological sciences, of which at least 9 semester hours are in ecology and 12 semester hours in physical and mathematical sciences.

This position has a positive education requirement. You must submit a copy of your academic transcripts OR a list of college courses with credit hours, dates completed, and grades received to verify education then applying for this position. If this information is not provided, your education may not be appropriately evaluated and you may lose consideration for this position. If you are selected for this position, you will have to provide an official copy of your transcripts prior to entering on duty.

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the above requirements if you can show that the foreign education is comparable to that received in an accredited educational institution in the United States. It is your responsibility to provide such evidence when applying. Please visit the Office of Personnel Management's website at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/SEC-II/s2-e4.htm#e4a> for additional information on this topic.

Additional Requirements:

Time-In-Grade Restrictions apply for all candidates considered under Merit Promotion/Alternative Merit Promotion.

Specialized Experience is experience which has equipped you with the following Knowledge, Skills and Abilities - 'KSAs' required to perform the duties of this position:

- (1) ability to apply research theories and methods of rangeland ecology and management, soil science and plant biology using experimental design and statistical analyses;
- (2) skill in using plant ecology research methods/techniques to study shrub steppe or arid rangeland ecosystems;
- (3) skill in mapping and assessing landscapes using remote sensing or GIS/GPS technology;
- (4) ability to use different spatial scales from plot to landscape-level to evaluate plant (sagebrush) habitat;
- (5) ability to plan, conduct, and publish research in peer reviewed scientific journals.

To be considered for a research scientist position, you must submit a one-page abstract of your MS thesis and/or Ph.D. dissertation. Also, submit a list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of persons familiar with your status, contributions, recognition; any honors or awards received; memberships in professional or honor societies; invitations to make presentations at scientific/technical meetings; scientific society office and committee assignments; presentations (other than invitation); and publications.

Vacant research positions may be filled at one of several grade levels depending upon the scientific impact of the person selected. A peer review may be required to determine the appropriate grade level of the position and supplemental materials may be required from the selectee.

Research scientists have open-ended promotion potential. Research accomplishments and their impact on the duties and responsibilities of positions are evaluated periodically. The grade level is limited only by the individual's demonstrated ability to perform research of recognized importance to science and technology. *Final grade level may be determined by a peer review panel.

How You Will Be Evaluated:

You will be evaluated to determine if you meet eligibility and minimum qualifications required, and on the extent to which your application shows that you possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) associated with this position as defined above under 'Specialized Experience.' The Agricultural Research Service uses a category rating process. Based on evaluation of all written materials submitted in application for the position, you will be determined to be Ineligible, if you do not meet eligibility and/or minimum qualifications criteria; Eligible, if you meet all eligibility and minimum qualifications criteria; OR Quality, if you meet quality criteria in addition to eligibility and minimum qualifications criteria. For information about how to address KSAs, please visit our website at www.ars.usda.gov/careers and click on 'What are those KSAs anyway