

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TEMPORARY RECRUITMENT BULLETIN

**VACANCY NO:** NWRC-SLH-01-TECH-2011

**POSITION:** Biological Science Technician (Field Assistant)

**SALARY:** GG-0404-04 (\$13.41/hour)

**TYPE OF APPT:** Temporary, Not-to-Exceed 180 working days

**WORK SCHEDULE:** Full time

**LOCATION:** USGS National Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, LA and field sites in coastal Louisiana.

**DATE OPENED:** July 7, 2011

**DATE CLOSED:** The announcement will be closed by close of business on July 13, 2011.

AREA OF CONSIDERATION: All U.S. Citizens

There will be five (5) or more field assistant positions to be hired from this announcement.

THIS IS A TEMPORARY EXCEPTED SERVICE POSITION for which all qualified applicants, with or without Federal status, may apply and be considered. Appointment to this position, however, will not convey permanent status in the Federal service. Appointment will only be for the duration of the position. Temporary employees are covered by the Social Security Retirement system; annual and sick leave will be accrued; and employees are ineligible for health and life insurance coverage.

DUTIES: The National Wetlands Research Center is seeking five biological science technician for the 2011 field season with the following duties:

--Collects biological, botany, fisheries, or wildlife data from study files or monitoring stations.

--Performs laboratory analysis of biological samples to determine specified chemical, biological, or physical characteristics.

--Operates a government motor vehicle or a boat as an incidental driver.

This focus of the study will be to estimate differences in the survival rate of willets along the Louisiana Coast between heavily-oiled and lightly-oiled areas. Data collected in this study will be used to further assess and refine estimates of spill-related mortality to shorebirds due to the oil spill. Standard operating procedures and data forms are available. Radio-marked birds will be remotely located (via radio transmitter) on a daily basis for the first 14 days after the birds are released to monitor for post-handling mortality. Thereafter, each instrumented shorebirds will be relocated via aerial and ground-based telemetry surveys at 2-4 day intervals over the life of the transmitter until the battery life of the transmitters dies. Relocation surveys will be conducted by foot, boat, or fixed-wing aircraft as required. Whenever possible, relocated birds will be checked for oiling. Every effort will be made to visually confirm status of all birds contacted to assess changes in oiling and to collect any carcasses. All carcasses of radio-tagged birds will be documented and transferred to the appropriate authority after the radio transmitter is removed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Field work requires good to excellent physical condition. During the field season, the incumbent spends considerable time outdoors for full days. The work involves moderate risks and discomforts such as adverse weather conditions and sometimes extreme temperatures, and often high levels of biting insects. Field work requires hiking up to 3 miles a day in dry to shallowly flooded wetlands. The incumbent will be required to lift and carry equipment and backpacks weighing up to 20 lbs in the performance of assigned duties. Data work (data entry and management, computer use) is performed in an office setting. **A pre-employment physical is required.**

Normal working days, in the field, are generally 8-9 hours in length, but may be longer or shorter as logistics, weather, and field conditions dictate.

You will be required to operate a government-owned or -leased vehicle in the performance of your official duties. Applicants for this position must meet the following requirements:

(1) possess a valid State license, and (2) possess a safe driving record. If selected, you will be required to provide proof of a valid State license and a copy of your driving record. **If it is determined the applicant does not possess a safe driving record, it may disqualify them from consideration from the position.**

**A background investigation will be required for this position. Continued employment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements will be grounds for termination.**

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

To be basically qualified for this position, applicants must possess experience or education beyond high school as described below:

6 months field party experience (includes outdoor field work making and recording field measurements and observations designed to collect data for biological science investigations).

OR 2 years sub-professional experience (includes work performed in support of field investigations related to the biological sciences which provided knowledge and skill in gathering, recording and assembling scientific data).

OR 1 year of college study related to field of employment (must include at least 9 hours of undergraduate level course work in the biological sciences).

You must meet all qualification and eligibility requirements for the position by the closing date of the announcement.

If this position requires specific educational course work to qualify, or you are qualifying based in whole or part on education, you are required to provide all unofficial transcripts (undergraduate, graduate, etc.) or list of course work, which includes semester hours earned and/or grade received, by the closing date of this announcement or you will be disqualified from further consideration. This proof may be faxed, emailed or hand delivered to the contact listed. If you are currently employed by the Federal government in the same occupational series as the advertised position, you are not required to submit transcripts at this time.

**BASIS OF EVALUATION:** All applicants will be evaluated on the basis of education and experience (including unpaid or volunteer experience). Applicants must meet all qualifications and eligibility requirements by the closing date of this announcement.

**NOTE:** Applicants will receive a basic eligible or ineligible rating based upon the qualification requirements. First preference in referral will be given to eligible applicants entitled to 10-point veteran's preference who have a compensable service-connected disability of 10 percent or more. All other qualified applicants entitled to veteran's preference will be given preference over qualified applicants not entitled to veteran's preference.

All applicants must be United States Citizens. Under regulations contained in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, employment in this position is limited to those persons who are authorized to work in the United States. Verification of employment eligibility will be required at the time of appointment.

As a condition of employment, all new employees reporting for duty with the Department of the Interior will be paid through direct deposit to a financial institution of their choice.

Applicants selected for Federal employment will be required to complete a Declaration of Federal Employment, OF-306, prior to being appointed to determine their suitability for Federal employment and to authorize a background investigation. Failure to answer all questions truthfully and completely or providing false statements on the application may be grounds for not hiring the applicant, or for firing the applicant after he/she begins work. Also, he/she may be punished by fine or imprisonment (U.S. code, Title 18, section 1001).

Prior to or at the time of appointment, male applicants born after December 31, 1959, will have to certify that they have registered with the Selective Service system in order to be appointed to a position with the United States Geological Survey, unless legally qualified for an exception.

Employees of the U.S. Geological Survey are subject to the provisions of Title 43, U.S. code, Section 31 (a) and may not according to this legislation and related regulation: (A) have any personal or private interest, direct or indirect, in lands or mineral wealth of such lands or a region under survey and whose title is in the U.S.; (B) execute surveys or examination for private parties or corporations; or (C) have personal or private interest, direct or indirect, in any private mining or mineral enterprise doing business in the U.S. except where specifically authorized by the director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

**The application contains information subject to the Privacy Act (P.L. 93-579, 5 USC 552a). The information is used to determine qualifications for employment and is authorized under Title 5, USC, Section 3302 and 3361.**

HOW TO APPLY: Carefully read all information and instructions. It is the responsibility of the applicant to insure the application is completed. The personnel office will not be responsible for soliciting additional information from applicants or from official personnel records, but will consider individuals based on their applications as submitted. Applications must be received at the National Wetlands Research Center office by the closing dates on the announcement to be considered by those dates. Submit the following forms:

- A. Resume
- B. DD-214 if applicable for veteran's preference.

Required Documents:

College transcript or list of college courses, specifying title of course work, completion date, semester or quarter hours earned by course title, and grade earned.

Veteran's Preference:

If you are claiming 10-point veteran's preference, you must submit a DD-214, SF-15 and supporting documents (e.g., official statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs). If you fail to do so, you will only be granted 5-point tentative preference if appropriate. Required documents must be submitted with your application.

For more information on veteran's preference, visit: <http://www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.asp>

**SEND APPLICATIONS TO:**

**Susan L. Hoover**

**Management Analyst**

**USGS, National Wetlands Research Center**

**700 Cajundome Boulevard**

**Lafayette, LA 70506**

**PH: 337 266 8517**

**FAX: 337 266 8515**

Applications will be accepted by fax or mail. If emailing or faxing, please include the vacancy number in the subject line. **Applications must be received BEFORE close of business (5:00pm (Central Time)) on the closing date of the announcement. If you fail to submit a completed resume, you will not be considered for this position. Requests for extensions will not be granted.**

It is against the law to submit applications for employment using government franked envelopes or mail services (18 USC 1719). All such applications will not be considered.

Whichever form of application you choose, the following must be included:

**JOB INFORMATION:**

- Vacancy number, title, and grade(s) of the job for which you are applying

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

-Full name, mailing address (with zip code) and day and evening phone numbers (with area code)

-Social Security Number

-Country of Citizenship

-Veteran's preference

-Highest Federal civilian grade held (also give job series and dates held)

#### EDUCATION:

-High school (name, address, including zip code if known)

-Colleges and universities (address including zip code if known)

-Majors

-type and year of any degrees received (if no degree, show total credits earned and indicate whether semester or quarter hours)

-Send a copy of your college transcripts or list of college courses completed. Specify title of course, semester or quarter hours earned for each course, date completed, grade earned.

#### WORK EXPERIENCE:

-Give the following information on your paid and nonpaid work experience related to the job for which you are applying (do not send job descriptions)

-Job Title (include series and grade if Federal job)

-Duties and accomplishments

-Employer's name and address

-Supervisor's name and phone number

-Starting and ending dates (month and year)

-Hours per week

-Salary

-Indicate if we may contact your current supervisor

#### OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:

-Job-related training courses title, length, date taken)

-Job-related skills (e.g. other languages, computer software/hardware, tools, machinery, typing speed)

-Job-related certificates and licenses (current only)

-Job-related honors, awards, and special accomplishments (e.g. publications, memberships in professional or honor societies, leadership activities public speaking, and performance awards). Give details but do not send documents unless requested.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE NATIONAL WETLANDS RESEARCH CENTER BY THE CLOSING DATE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE CONSIDERED.

The U.S. Geological Survey is an Equal Opportunity Employer