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**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

**USDA Forest Service**

**El Yunque National Forest**

**GS-0404-05/06/07,**

**Biological Science Technician, Natural Resources**

**Outreach for permanent placement**

El Yunque National Forest (EYNF), located in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico will soon be advertising and filling a career ladder Biological Science Technician, Natural Resources – GS-0404-5/6/7. This position will support the Ecosystems Team working the wildlife, fisheries, and forest vegetation programs on the EYNF. This position will serve the technician point of contact for the interagency Puerto Rican Parrot recovery effort.

**Outreach Response:**

You may contact Elba Garcia at 787-888-5546 for more information. Outreach response form must be filled and sent to**elbagarcia@fs.fed.us**

**Parties who are potentially interested in this position are encouraged to fill out the brief form attached below and submit via email by September 18, 2015.**

**Location:**

This position will be located in Rio Grande, PR.

**Major Duties:**

Serves as a supervisor for two permanent GS-5 technicians, two seasonal GS-4 technicians, additional temporary employees at GS-4 and 5 levels, and volunteers by planning and distributing workload among employees, checking status and progress of work and making adjustments, accepting finished work and amending or rejecting work not meeting standards, instructing employees in specific task and job techniques, giving on-the-ground training to new employees, checking working conditions and ensuring work is done safely, monitoring performance and disciplinary problems, resolving simple, informal complaints of employees, conducting performance reviews, approving leave and making reports and approving time and leave for employees.

Schedules, organizes, and executes field projects for detecting, identifying and evaluating natural resource problems, i.e., water, land, food, plants, animals, and soils. Assignments include: collecting samples, establishing tests and control plots, as necessary; compiling and summarizing data obtained from aerial and ground surveys including natural resource monitoring, evaluations, and pilot tests conducted as part of the project; taking photographs to record resource damage; running computer programs to organize the data for analysis; conducting routine analyses; and providing the data to professional personnel after checking it and developing explanations for unusually high or low figures or figures that seem inconsistent. Using prescribed procedures, the incumbent resolves common administrative and safety concerns related to the project. Assists with development of reports after higher graded employees have refined and verified the data and analyzed the results. Participates as a team member to collaboratively achieve mutual goals and objectives and provides knowledge and skills to address specific issues.

Knowledge required by the Position

* Knowledge of the basic theories and practices of biological science sufficient to analyze findings and make recommendations for changes.
* Knowledge of natural resource management practices and the Forest Service policy and programs to lay out, schedule, organize, and execute a variety of projects requiring diverse technical knowledge, e.g., natural resource projects in water, land, food, plants, animals, or soils programs.
* Knowledge of the technical processes, procedures, and techniques related to a variety of natural resource sampling, measurements, and analysis.
* Ability to modify or adjust procedures to improve efficiency of the project.
* Knowledge of computer functions related to data input, retrieval, and routine analysis of tabular and spatial data.
* Knowledge of Puerto Rican Parrot life history and ecology to accomplish habitat management. Knowledge of Puerto Rican fauna to identify native and non-native species.
* Knowledge of local tropical forest ecology to perform analysis.
* Knowledge of and familiarity with technical climbing skills, equipment, and safety practices to prevent accidents.
* Skills in oral and written communications (both English and Spanish) and math, to analyze field data, and prepare reports and records.

**The Forest:**

El Yunque National Forest, is located east of the capital, get its name from an Indian spirit Yuquiye, which gave the mountain that dominates the 28,000 acres tropical forest. The same is located in the rugged Sierra de Luquillo, 40 km southeast of San Juan. It is the only tropical rain forest in the U.S. National Forest System. Originally set aside in 1876 by the Spanish Crown, the Forest represents one of the oldest reserves in the Western Hemisphere. With over 240 species (26 species are found nowhere else) of trees and plants, give reason to the government of Puerto Rico to spend a great deal of moneymaking to preserve floral species and animals that are on the verge of extinction. The total area is 11,270 ha (75% of Puerto Rico virgin forest is here).

The Forest contains rare wildlife including the Puerto Rican Parrot, which is one of the ten most endangered species of birds in the world. Its scientific name is Amazona vitatta. Its primary habitat is the upper zones of the Luquillo Mountains. Approximately 50 other bird species are found on the Forest.

El Yunque N.F. is the rainiest of all the National Forests with up to 240 inches per year. More than 100 billion gallons of rainwater fall on the Forest per year. The climate is frost-free and ranges in moisture from semi-desert to rain forest conditions within very short distances. There are strong easterly trade winds and cool weather is normal at the higher elevations. El Yunque is part of the Luquillo range and is divided into four forest types: Tabonuco Forest, Palo Colorado Forest, Palma Sierra Forest, and Cloud Forest. In December, 2005, the President signed into law the Caribbean National Forest Act which designated 10,000 acres of the forest as the El Toro Wilderness Area, the first wilderness area to be designated in a tropical rainforest.

**Puerto Rico:**

For such a small island, Puerto Rico has a lot of history. Epic battles were fought at land and sea between massive armadas in an attempt to steal Puerto Rico from the Spanish. Kings and Queens from all over the world visited the island just to catch a glimpse of its beauty and many explorers voyaged in hopes of bringing knowledge and riches back to their home countries.

Because of its prime location in the world, Puerto Rican culture is the product of a fusion between Taíno indian, African slave, and Spanish colonial influences. Year-round religious-based festivals, deeply rooted in tradition, are a perfect window into Spain's influence on modern day Puerto Rico. The lyrics and the beating of the drums of a salsa, bomba and plena song evoke crystal clear images of the hardships of the African slaves. The liveliness of the spices in modern cuisine is reminiscent of the first meals of the Taínos. These influences are as alive in Puerto Rico today as they were in our beginning, some five centuries ago.

Puerto Rico is a self-governing commonwealth in association with the United States. The chief of state is the President of the United States of America. The head of government is an elected Governor. There are two legislative chambers: the House of Representatives, 51 seats, and the Senate, 27 seats.

Puerto Rico has authority over its internal affairs. United States controls: interstate trade, foreign relations and commerce, customs administration, control of air, land and sea, immigration and emigration, nationality and citizenship, currency, maritime laws, military service, military bases, army, navy and air force, declaration of war, constitutionality of laws, jurisdictions and legal procedures, treaties, radio and television--communications, agriculture, mining and minerals, highways, postal system; Social Security, and other areas generally controlled by the federal government in the United States. Puerto Rican institutions control internal affairs unless U.S. law is involved, as in matters of public health and pollution.

This subtropical island has developed into the only Caribbean island where industry and commerce has exceeded primary agricultural production. Economically Puerto Rico has a greater variety of industrial, commercial, and financial service activities and a better-developed transportation network than other Caribbean islands. Statistics show that it has some of the most favorable economic and demographic conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**For additional information, check out the following web sites…….**

**>>** [**http://www.caribbeanbusinesspr.com/about\_puerto\_rico/eng/index.php**](http://www.caribbeanbusinesspr.com/about_puerto_rico/eng/index.php)

**>>** [**http://welcome.topuertorico.org/index.shtml**](http://welcome.topuertorico.org/index.shtml)

**>>** [**http://www.seepuertorico.com/**](http://www.seepuertorico.com/)

**>>** [**http://www.meetpuertorico.com/Index.html**](http://www.meetpuertorico.com/Index.html)

**>>** [**http://www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque**](http://www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque)