

**REPLY BY: 6/10/2016**

**OUTREACH NOTICE**

**Biological Science Technician, GS-0404-8/9**  
**FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION ASHEVILLE**  
**FIELD OFFICE**  
**Asheville, North Carolina**

Biological Science Technician GS-040401-8/9

**DESCRIPTION OF THE DUTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS POSITION:**

Position Description:

Forest Health Protection will soon be advertising a vacancy for a GS 08/09 Biological Science Technician. The position is full-time and permanent with the Asheville Field Office of Forest Health Protection. This unit is part of the Southern Region and is primarily focused on the detection, evaluation, and suppression of forest insects and diseases that threaten economic and ecological resources.

This position will support professionals (entomologists and pathologists) who focus on native and exotic insects and diseases affecting southern U.S. forests. This position will be responsible for field and laboratory data collection and generation, data interpretation and statistically supported reports to the supervisory scientist. The selected candidate will coordinate and carry out field work including aerial surveys, be responsible for laboratory workflow, and coordinate with various state and federal cooperators. The candidate should possess several years of experience assisting with research or studies in ecology and/or forestry. Expected knowledge includes basic and applied science, with demonstrated experience completing hypothesis-driven experiments. The broad scope of this position requires flexibility to integrate tools from diverse disciplines such as forestry, entomology, pathology, and ecology. Creativity and ingenuity are required for identifying problems and for developing appropriate solutions in

workflow and data organization. Travel will be frequent as some work locations are more than a day's drive from the field office. The position also requires experience and familiarity with aviation operations for aerial survey duties. The successful candidate will be expected to hold a B.S. in entomology/pathology/ecology/forestry and/or related field and experience with researching/identifying plants and insects being mandatory.

#### Duty Station Specifics:

This position is part of the Southern Region's Regional Office Forest Health Protection Staff located in the Asheville Field Office. The duty station is the Asheville Field Office 200 W.T. Weaver Boulevard, Asheville, NC 28804 which is located in the headquarters building of the Southern Research Station.

### **ABOUT THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE USDA FOREST SERVICE**

The Southern Region is a dynamic collection of lands, cared for by people as a legacy for future generations. We believe that benefits to people flow from healthy land, which is conserved through wise management and that management is most effective when shared. The Forest Service employs about 250 people at the Atlanta regional headquarters, and about 3,000 throughout the South. There are 13.3 million acres of National Forest System lands in the Southern Region, and because of fragmentation and population pressures, State and Private Forestry is integral to the Region's overall program delivery. The Asheville Field Office has primary responsibility for the prevention, detection, evaluation and suppression of insects and diseases on national forests, other federal agency and state and private forest lands in the eastern 7 states of Region 8 as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

### **ABOUT THE ASHEVILLE AREA**

Asheville is the largest city in western North Carolina with a population approaching 90,000. Nestled in the southern Appalachian Mountains, Asheville is a collection of the old and the new, where history and technology merge. Unique architecture, beautiful mountain scenery, recreation opportunities galore, a thriving arts culture, the Biltmore Estate and the recent growth of micro-breweries, make Asheville a prime tourist destination. Asheville is also home to the National Climatic Data Center, the world's largest active archive of weather data and the Blue Ridge Parkway Headquarters.

**Population:** The population is diverse. As of the 2000 census, the racial composition of the city was: 77.95% White, 17.61% Black or African American, 3.76% Hispanic or Latino American, 0.92% Asian American, 0.35% Native American, 0.06% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 1.53% some other race, and 1.58% two or more races. Age distribution was 19.6% under the age of 18, 10.3% from 18 to 24, 28.7% from 25 to 44, 23.1% from 45 to 64, and 18.3% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 39 years. For every 100 females there were 87.8 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 83.9 males. The median household income was \$32,772, and the median family income was \$44,029. Males had a median income of \$30,463 versus \$23,488 for females. The per capita income for the city was

\$20,024. About 13% of families and 19% of the population were below the poverty line, including 24.9% of those under age 18 and 10.1% of those aged 65 or over.

**History:** Before the arrival of the Europeans, the land where Asheville now exists lay within the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation. In 1540, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto came to the area, bringing the first European visitors along with European diseases, which seriously depleted the native population. The area was used as an open hunting ground until the middle of the 19th century. Buncombe County was officially formed in 1792. The county seat, named "Morristown" in 1793, was established on a plateau where two old Indian trails crossed. In 1797, Morristown was incorporated and renamed "Asheville" after North Carolina Governor Samuel Ashe. On October 2, 1880, the Western North Carolina Railroad completed its line from Salisbury to Asheville, the first rail line to reach the city. With the completion of the first railway, Asheville experienced a slow but steady growth as industrial plants increased in number and size, and new residents built homes. Textile mills were established and plants were set up for the manufacture of wood and mica products, foodstuffs, and other commodities. Asheville prospered in the decades of the 1910s and 1920s and at one point was the third largest city in the state, behind Charlotte and Wilmington.

Asheville pops up on national rankings for a variety of things: "a New Age Mecca" the "New Freak Capital of the U.S, one of "The 50 Most Alive Places To Be", the "Happiest City for Women", one of the "Best Places to Reinvent Your Life", one of the "Best Outside Towns", one of the "Top Seven Places to Live in the U.S, one of the "10 Most Beautiful Places in America", one of the "25 Best Places for Business and Careers" , and one of "20 Great Cities For Writers". Asheville has been listed as one of the "Top 25 Small Cities for Art" in AmericanStyle magazine's annual list from 2000 to 2012 and has reigned the champion "Beer City USA" each year from 2009 to 2012. Dozens of microbreweries dot the downtown and major producers, including New Belgium Brewing Company (opening 2016) are in the process of building in or near the city.

In his 2008 book, *The Geography of Bliss*, author Eric Weiner cited Asheville as one of the happiest places in the United States. Recent national accolades: "Best city in America for locavores" 2014, "The hippie capital of the South" 2014, "#1 most popular city for retirement out of 900+ U.S. cities" 2014, "#1 town to live and work in as a movie maker" 2014, One of 6 top "Alternative Travel Destinations for 2014" 2014, "One of 20 cities you should visit in your 20s" 2014, "#1 of 12 Dreamy Towns for Vegan Living" 2013, "One of 10 Tastiest Towns in the South" 2013, "Hippest City in the South" 2013, "One of America's Best River Towns" 2012, "Most Romantic Place in USA and Canada" 2012, "Top 10 Great Sunny Places to Retire", "10 Fantastically Yoga-Friendly Destinations" 2011.

**Climate:** The climate of Asheville is a humid subtropical climate (Köppen Cfa), resembling the rest of the Piedmont region of the southeastern U.S., but with noticeably cooler temperatures due to the higher altitude; it is part of USDA Hardiness zone 7a.[38] The area's summers in particular, though warm, are not as hot as summers in cities farther east in the state, as the July daily average temperature is 73.8 °F (23.2 °C) and there is an average of only 9.4 days with 90 °F

(32 °C)+ highs annually;[a] the last time a calendar year has passed without 90 °F readings is 2009. Moreover, warm nights where the low remains at or above 70 °F (21 °C) are much more uncommon than 90 °F temperatures. Winters are cool, with a January daily average of 37.1 °F (2.8 °C) and highs remaining at or below freezing on 5.5 days.[39]

Official record temperatures range from −16 °F (−27 °C) on January 21, 1985 to 100 °F (38 °C) on August 21, 1983;[40][41] the record cold daily maximum is 4 °F (−16 °C) on February 4, 1895, while, conversely, the record warm daily minimum is 77 °F (25 °C) on July 17, 1887.[39] Readings as low as 0 °F (−18 °C) or as high as 95 °F (35 °C) rarely occur, the last occurrences being January 7, 2014 and July 1, 2012, respectively.[39] The average window for freezing temperatures is October 17 to April 18, allowing a growing season of 181 days.

Precipitation is relatively well spread, though the summer months are noticeably wetter, and totals 45.6 inches (1,160 mm) annually, but historically ranging from 22.79 in (579 mm) in 1925 to 75.22 in (1,911 mm) in 2013. Snowfall is sporadic, averaging 9.9 inches (25.1 cm) per winter, but actual seasonal accumulation varies considerably from one winter to the next; accumulation has ranged from trace amounts in 2011–12 to 48.2 inches (122.4 cm) in 1968–69.

**Housing:** Asheville has it all! "In-town" or country living. Prices range from modest to millions! Median home prices start at about \$180,000. For more information, check out the <http://www.ashevillerealestate.com/> site for more information.

**Medical:** A good selection of health care is available, including doctors, dentists, and specialists. A wide variety of home care, adult day care, nursing homes and mental health facilities is also available.

**Education:** Public Asheville City Schools include Asheville High School, School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville, Asheville Middle School, Claxton Elementary, Randolph Learning Center, Hall Fletcher Elementary, Isaac Dickson Elementary, Ira B. Jones Elementary and Vance Elementary. Asheville High has been ranked by Newsweek magazine as one of the top 100 high schools in the United States. The Buncombe County School System operates high schools, middle schools and elementary schools both inside and outside the city of Asheville. Clyde A. Erwin High School, T C Roberson High School and A. C. Reynolds High School are three Buncombe County schools located in Asheville.

Nearby Warren Wilson, Mars Hill, Brevard and Montreat colleges, and Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College provide additional education opportunities.

**Transportation:** Asheville is served by Asheville Regional Airport in nearby Fletcher, North Carolina, and by Interstate 40, Interstate 240, and Interstate 26. The city operates the Asheville Transit System, which consists of sixteen bus lines providing service throughout the City of Asheville and to Black Mountain, North Carolina. Several taxi companies provide service to the downtown and outlying areas.

**Shopping and Dining:** Asheville features many restaurants serving a multitude of cuisines. The Asheville and Biltmore Square Malls, downtown stores and a number of strip malls provide a wide selection of stores for your shopping needs.

**Places of Worship:** Asheville features multiple places of worship for most faiths.

**Area Attractions:**

BB&T Building, tallest structure in Asheville  
Biltmore Estate  
Biltmore Park Town Square  
Blue Ridge Parkway  
Botanical Gardens at Asheville  
Cradle of Forestry in America  
Grove Park Inn  
Jackson Building, first skyscraper in western North Carolina  
McCormick Field  
Moog Music  
National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)  
North Carolina Arboretum  
Pisgah National Forest  
Smith-McDowell House  
Thomas Wolfe House

**IF INTERESTED**

We encourage you to express your interest in the position by completing the attached Outreach Response Form. The vacancy announcement will be advertised on OPM's website: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

**Outreach Notices Response Form**  
**Respond to Rusty Rhea**  
**(rrhea@fs.fed.us)**  
**By June 10, 2016**

Title of Outreach Position: Biological Technician

Series and Grade of Outreach Position: 0404 08/09

Unit Name of Outreach Notice: Forest Health Protection

Outreach Position Location: Asheville, North Carolina

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**RESPONDING PERSON:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current /Region/Forest/District: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Series and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief statement of how you think your experience/education meets the duties and basic qualifications of the outreach position.

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