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**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

**USDA Forest Service**

**El Yunque National Forest**

**GS-401/408/430/460-9/11, Biological Scientist/Forest Ecologist/Forest Botanist/Forester**

**Outreach for permanent placement**

**This notice is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity and to determine the level of interest in the position and how we may choose to advertise it.**

El Yunque National Forest (EYNF), located in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico will soon be advertising and filling a permanent position as the Forest Ecologist. This position will serve the Ecosystems Team working as the main contact for the forest vegetation program. The person will also assist with other duties such as soil and water projects, botanical monitoring, etc. Experience with tropical ecosystems would be preferred for this position. Also being bi-lingual (English/Spanish) is not required but would be helpful.

**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**](mailto:elbagarcia@fs.fed.us) **or you can respond directly through the Forest Service outreach database. All responses should be received on or before October 9th.**

**Location:**

This position will be located in Rio Grande, PR.

**Major Duties:**

Implement ecological programs to maintain a viable and dynamic forest system on the National Forest. Monitors and evaluates the effects of management decisions on forest land and surrounding communities. Analyzes and determines impact of unit programs on compliance with Federal, state, and local laws, policies, and regulations. Coordinates research projects with cooperators, including other Federal and state agencies and academia to develop further understandings of the processes of the forest ecosystem. Provides input for short and long-term planning for budgetary and compliance requirements.  
  
Analyze ecosystem components and processes within tropical forested areas and neighboring forest and adjacent communities to determine the effects of management activities. Develop mitigating solutions to actions resulting from adverse effect on the forest system/lands for soil, water, and vegetation resource. This position will serve as the program manager for soil, water, air, and vegetation. Incorporate data into a Geographic Information System or similar technology. Reviews related ecological documentation, including regulation, journals, and technical reports to identify new requirements or methodologies that influence forestry projects. Give briefings and presentations relating to ecological systems.

Develop a long-term monitoring system to collect baseline data to quantitatively evaluate the processes within the system. Evaluate ecological conditions in tropical forests to meet the desired objectives of the management plan. Assists in or personally conducts portions of ecological studies of the vegetation, soil, and environmental characteristics of the Zone or forest from which ecological classifications are produced, which provides basic understanding of ecosystems as well as land management and planning information. Periodically re-evaluates the program to ensure that methodology and information are significant to the goals of the Forest. Develop land restoration plans, provides specialist support to site specific activities as a National Environmental Policy Act resource specialist.  
  
Prepare projects that incorporate new or alternative approaches that validate or develop a better understanding of the tropical ecosystem. Prepare individual job orders and scopes of work to accomplish the projects by contractor and coordinates with the Acquisition Management Office. Monitor the progress of projects to insure they meet requirements defined by the scope of the work. Evaluate the results of the projects to determine effectiveness of the project.

Knowledge required by the Position

* Comprehensive knowledge of professional ecological principles, concepts, and practices and a wide variety of local, State, and Federal environmental regulations to conduct studies, identify current and potential problems and noncompliance situations, and implement or recommend corrective action.
* In-depth knowledge of ecological interrelationship of organisms with each other, physical and chemical environments and societal impact to consider the national forest ecosystem as a whole.
* Knowledge and skill to assess the impact of forest activities on public safety, ecology and the environment.
* Knowledge and skill to adapt standard practices, methods, or techniques in establishing project scope of work and preparing justifications and specifications for the development of project plans.
* Knowledge of computer functions related to data input, retrieval, and routine analysis of tabular and spatial data.
* Knowledge of local tropical forest ecology to perform analysis.
* 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 40 km southeast of the capital (San Juan). It gets its name from an Indian spirit Yuquiye, which is also the name of one of the mountains that dominates the 28,000 acres tropical forest (75% of Puerto Rock virgin forest is here). 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 money to preserve floral species and animals that are on the verge of extinction.

[](http://www.iit.edu/~PR/pr.html)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 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)

**OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM**

**Southern Region, USDA Forest Service**

**El Yunque National Forest**

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

**Biological Science Technician (Natural Resources)**

Duty Location: Rio Grande, P.R.

**If you are interested in this opportunity, please let us know by returning the reply form before: October 9, 2015.**

Send your notice to: Elba Garcia

**Email: elbagarcia@fs.fed.us**

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NAME:

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TELEPHONE NUMBER:

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HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS OUTREACH NOTICE?

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**Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!**