USDA Forest Service

Pacific Southwest Region

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**Outreach Notice**

**Modoc National Forest**

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**Forest Botanist, GS-0430 9/11- Permanent Position**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Modoc National Forest is determining interest for an upcoming vacancy for a permanent Forest Botanist, GS-0430 9/11 position. This position is located on a Forest Service unit. The incumbent has responsibility for providing professional, scientific assistance to the staff pertaining to a variety of botanical and sensitive plant species duties in support of Forest activities. **Please complete the attached outreach response form and email with resume to Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist Nicole Longfellow by OCTOBER 7, 2020 at** **nichole.longfellow@usda.gov****. For questions about the position contact via email or phone (530) 233-8812.**

**MAJOR DUTIES**

Serves as a Botanist providing technical expert assistance to the unit in matters dealing with threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species and plant community and vegetation management. Is responsible for the identification, management and plant ecology. Ensures consistency throughout the unit in developing and implementing programs to manage and protect these plants.

Works with other federal land agencies and state agencies in developing sensitive plant lists and plant species management guidelines for plants found on the unit.

Provides advice to the unit in development of species management guides and in maintenance of the unit’s sensitive plant lists. Prepares biological evaluations for the Endangered Species Act and Forest Service policy requirements for proposed endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. Makes recommendations concerning which plants should be considered sensitive on the unit, and conducts training in habitat analysis, plant identification, and documentation procedures for threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species in accordance with forest management plans and objectives. Maintains a current inventory of all known and proposed endangered, threatened, and sensitive species plant occurrence records.

Serves as a botanical expert when working on interdisciplinary teams interpreting complex botanical situations involving specialists from several management groups and agencies.

Monitors effects of Forest Plan implementation on plant communities and interprets trends where management emphasis changes, including fire and grazing programs. Prepares scientific information for environmental assessments or draft and final environmental impact statements for the unit.

Prepares scopes of work and government estimates for contracted services. Monitors contract progress and resolves problems with the contractor. Designs and conducts environmental data collection field surveys for threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants; prepares schedules and cost estimates for field surveys for plants; and interprets the field data.

Develops and conducts a monitoring program at selected plant sites. Provides professional advice and guidance regarding area responsibility as required. Recommends management strategies for rare, threatened, and endangered plants.

Coordinates with academic institutions regarding specific research and surveys that are periodically conducted on the unit. Attends seminars and meetings and reviews publications and documents to keep informed on status of threatened, endangered and sensitive plants. Prepares statistical and narrative reports, correspondence and briefings as required.

Reviews environmental assessments and environmental impact statements and makes recommendations to ensure that botanical resources and ecosystem integrity are adequately addressed and considered. Maintains communication with, and exchanges sensitive plant and native re-vegetation program information with, other botanists, ecologists, and horticulturists associated with the Forest Service, other Federal and State programs, the scientific community, arboretums, and botanical gardens.

Prepares botanical reports, biological evaluations, and assessments to provide input for various environmental documents. Makes on-the-ground investigations of complex ecological and botanical conditions of the effects of specific activities on the long-term survival of rare plant species, providing recommendations for action in specific cases.

**ABOUT THE FOREST:**

The Modoc National Forest, situated in extreme northeastern California, boasts an ecologically diverse landscape. It is a land of contrasts, with ecosystems ranging from pine and fir dominated mountains to high desert plateaus covered with sage brush and juniper. It is one of the largest national forests in California at about 1.68 million acres. Administratively it is managed from the Forest Supervisor’s Office in Alturas and two zones encompassing four ranger districts with offices in Adin, Tulelake, Alturas and Cedarville. The climate also exhibits contrasts, with average high temperatures in July being 88 degrees and average lows in January in the teens. With the average annual precipitation being about 12 inches there is an abundance of days with clear blue skies. Elavations range from 9,892 feet at Eagle Peak atop the Warner Mountains to 4,000 feet in the valleys.

The Forest manages a variety of programs, including wildlife, vegetation, range, recreation, minerals, wilderness, special uses, heritage, watershed, fuels and fire suppression. Specialists working here include botanists, foresters, wildlife and fishery biologists, arechaeologists, range conservationists, engineers, fire and fuels managers, business management and public relations professionals. These specialists work on a variety of challenging issues including: sage steppe restoration, wildhorse territory management, the largest rangeland management program in Region 5, managing fire across the landscape, and landscape scale restoration.

The Forest is primarily situated in beautiful Modoc County. With a population of about 10,000 the County is among the most rural in California. It borders Oregon to the north and Nevada to the east. Alturas is the County Seat and location of the Forest Supervisor’s Office, and is about 3 ¼ hours (170 miles) from Reno, NV; 2 ¾ hours (145 miles) from Redding, CA; and 1 ¾ hours (98) miles from Klamath Falls, OR. All these cities offer major shopping opportunities and Reno and Redding offer airport services. There is a medical clinic in Alturas with major medical services available in Reno and Redding.

While the key to real estate is location , location, location; for many who come and stay on the Modoc the key is lifestyle, lifestyle, lifestyle. The Modoc lifestyle has much to offer, being more rural and remote. A slower pace offers a welcome relief from the “hustle and bustle” of urban life. The nights are quiet and peaceful, and with minimal light pollution the sky is full of stars. There are ample recreational opportunities, including fishing and hunting, that are uncrowded. There is strong community support and the local community is interested and involved in Forest programs. If you are looking for a place that offers a low stress lifestyle and safe community, the Modoc is for you.

Information on the Modoc National Forest and community is available on these sites:

* Modoc National Forest website: <http://fs.usda.gov/modoc/>
* Modoc Record (newspaper): <http://www.modocrecord.com/>
* Modoc National Forest Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Forest-Service-Modoc-National-Forest/624840120965582>
* Modoc schools: <http://www.modoccoe.k12.ca.us/>
* Alturas, CA information: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Alturas-California.html>
* Alturas Chamber of Commerce, 522 S. Main Street, Alturas, CA 96101. Telephone is 530-222-4433; and, FAX 530-222-4434, or visit their website at [www.alturaschamber.org/](http://www.alturaschamber.org/)

**About the Community:**

**Alturas:** The Supervisor’s office is located in Alturas, California, which has a population of 3000, and is the county seat of Modoc County. Alturas is a full service community with a hospital, doctors, public schools, businesses, and recreation facilities. The cost of living is reasonable. Home costs range from $100,000 to $250,000. Rentals for 2-3 bedrooms are approximately $300-$500. The public school system provides instruction for grades k-12 and offers numerous extra-curricular activities. Additionally, the Lassen College Extension Office offers a variety of night courses. Alturas also has various churches representing many denominations.

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OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

 GS-0430-****9/11

**Please submit outreach response by OCTOBER 7, 2020 to** **nichole.longfellow@usda.gov**

**Modoc National Forest**

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HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS OUTREACH NOTICE?

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IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AUTHORITIES:

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 PERSON WITH DISABILITIES

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 VETERANS RECRUITMENT ACT

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 VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998

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 FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

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 PATHWAYS PROGRAM

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