EMPLOYMENT OUTREACH NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE
NORTHERN RESEARCH STATION

The Northern Research Station plans to advertise the following position as soon as possible. Please circulate this outreach notice to as many potential candidates as possible; we are seeking a diverse pool of qualified applicants. For current openings and outreach, visit http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/jobs/.

Research Hydrologist, GS-1315-11/12

USDA FS Northern Research Station Parsons, West Virginia

ABOUT THIS POSITION

The position is located at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Northern Research Station, Timber & Watershed Laboratory, Parsons, WV.

The mission of Research Work Unit NRS-01 is to conduct research needed to perpetuate healthy and resilient forest ecosystems so they can continue to provide a vast array of ecosystem services and products. The majority of the Unit's research is conducted in the central Appalachian Mountains which has a mix of landownerships, and Unit scientists are expected to outreach to all types of landowners. The Fernow Experimental Forest is available as a research site, but research on other lands is encouraged.

For the research hydrologist in this position, research is focused on surface hydrology, watershed management principles, and related factors and processes that affect water quality, particularly within the central Appalachian region. The duties require knowledge of forest and wildland hydrology, and all components of the hydrologic cycle and stream hydrograph in forests and wildlands. It is critical for the incumbent to understand how forest hydrology differs from many of the foundational concepts of engineering hydrology. Knowledge of inorganic chemistry and physics (especially fluvial hydraulics) are needed. Knowledge of the influence and interactions of the many components of forest catchments – vegetation, soil, geology, and atmospheric influences – are required to interpret basic biogeochemical responses that are observed in unmanaged and managed forests. An in-depth understanding of terrestrial and in-stream erosion, sediment storage, and sediment transport processes, and forestry BMPs are needed. In addition, the incumbent's knowledge must include basic forestry and silvicultural concepts.

Some of the incumbent's work may focus on basic research, but the majority of the incumbent's investigations should be applied research to fulfill the Unit's research mission and address the needs of partners and stake holders. The incumbent must work cooperatively with many internal (i.e., Forest Service) and external partners and have the ability to develop and cultivate relationships, including with land and watershed managers, university researchers, and other organizations. The incumbent also will participate in outreach and educational activities, including hosting and assisting with field trips on the Fernow Experimental Forest and providing research advice and feedback to undergraduate and graduate students.

The ability to attract research funding and to publish results in the refereed literature is fundamental to success. As a result, the incumbent must demonstrate the following abilities: acquisition of research grants or noncompetitive funding in the areas of forest hydrology and watershed management, publication of results in the refereed literature, and the ability to translate scientific findings into guidelines and techniques usable by land or watershed managers or practicing forest hydrologists.

NRS-01 functions as a team of experts, with leadership shared within the unit. The incumbent will take a leadership role with other scientists in the Unit and with external partners in matters relating to forest hydrology and watershed management. The incumbent will be expected to serve as the day-to-day supervisor for the unit's water quality laboratory. Supervision requires a basic understanding of inorganic chemistry and standard laboratory procedures. The scientist also is expected to assist with laboratory operations under periods of heavy sample loads or when primary laboratory staff are on leave.

The incumbent also has the opportunity to continue the unit's contributions to the US Forest Service's National Best Management Practice (BMP) Program, particularly the monitoring portion of that program. This work requires developing a thorough understanding of the monitoring protocols to provide assistance to National Forest System personnel during annual monitoring, assisting with national training and development of training materials, and assisting with or leading the preparation and publication of monitoring reports. The unit's Natural Resource Specialist is one of the National BMP Program leaders and will provide assistance to the incumbent in issues related to this research related assignment.

This position is permanent, full-time, and may be eligible for telework and other flexible work arrangements, but it is not a virtual position. Government housing is not available.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The Timber and Watershed Laboratory and the Fernow Experimental Forest are located in the town of Parsons, WV, within the Monongahela National Forest. Parsons is the county seat for Tucker County and had a population of 1,485 in the 2010 census. The Cheat River begins in Parsons, where the Shavers Fork and the Black Fork meet. Parsons, and the larger Tucker County, offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. The nearby towns of Thomas and Davis offer small-town living, art galleries, boutique shopping, live music, and unique dining in a high-elevation, forested landscape.

Elkins, in Randolph County, is about 30 miles away and is a community of 8,000 and boasts a reasonable cost of living, low crime rate, and enviable location nestled in the Appalachian Mountains. Surrounded by forested landscapes interspersed with mountain meadows and rangeland, opportunities abound for outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Widely recognized for its beautiful scenery and colorful four seasons, Elkins is a gateway community into West Virginia's mountain playground and was recently named a top mountain biking destination in the country. Recreation opportunities include two nearby downhill ski areas, (Snowshoe Mountain and Canaan Valley Resort) cross-country skiing, five golf courses, whitewater and lake boating, rock climbing, fishing, hunting, backpacking, and nature watching. The proximity of the Monongahela National Forest and numerous State Parks and Forests adds to the recreational activities available in north-central West Virginia.

Elkins has many of the services of a larger city, including Davis Health Systems which has a Family Birthing Center, Pain Management Center, surgical services, Cardiac and Vascular Diagnostic Center, Imaging Services, Sleep Disorder Services, Cancer Center, and many other amenities typically found in larger communities. Shopping choices range from large chains to unusual specialty stores. Driving distances to metropolitan areas include 4 hours to the Washington, D.C. – Baltimore area, 2.5 hours to Pittsburgh, and 4.5 hours to Philadelphia.

Also in the Elkins community are a high school, vo-tech center, middle school, four K-5 schools, a Montessori pre-school, and Davis and Elkins College, a small liberal arts school within city limits. There are a number of other state and private colleges or universities, including West Virginia University, Alderson-Broaddus College, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Salem International University, University of Charleston, Fairmont State University, and Glenville State College within one-half to two hour commuting distance.

National and international airports are located within 175 miles. Additional information on the area can be obtained at http://www.randolphcountywv.com/, https://canaanvalley.org/, or https://canaanvalley.org/see-do/sightseeing/small-town.

ABOUT THE NORTHERN RESEARCH STATION

The Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, serves a 20-state region composed of the Northeast and Midwest. Headquartered in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, the Station improves people's lives and sustains natural resources through research and development. The Northern Research Station has more than 320 employees, including 104 scientists, 12 Research Work Units at 24 field locations and 22 Experimental Forests. The Station develops practical solutions while advancing fundamental science that improves people's lives and sustains natural resources. The following five science themes guide the Station's research: Forest Disturbance Processes, Sustaining Forests, Providing Clean Air and Water, Urban Natural Resources Stewardship, and Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment. Interested candidates can discover more about the Northern Research Station at http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/.

OUTREACH NOTICE
Northern Research Station
Hydrologist GS-1315-11/12
Location: Parsons, WV
Respond By: 07/31/2019
Respond to: jan.wiedenbeck@USDA.GOV

SUBMISSION OF THIS INFORMATION IS VOLUNTARY

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: USFS ☐ BLM ☐ OTHER ☐

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT *IF* CURRENT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE:

☐ **PERMANENT** ☐ **TEMPORARY** ☐ **TERM** ☐ **VRA** ☐ **PWD** ☐ **OTHER**

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT (IF APPLICABLE): _____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE (IF APPLICABLE): _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: _____

IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANET (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE, ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AUTHORITIES:

☐ **PERSON WITH DISABILITIES**

☐ **VETERANS READJUSTMENT**

☐ **DISABLED VETERANS WITH 30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY**

☐ **VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998**

☐ **FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER**

☐ **STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM**

☐ **OTHER**

Thank you for your interest!
e-mail responses to: jan.wiedenbeck@USDA.GOV
Learn more about the Northern Research Station at: http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/