



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hoosier and Shawnee National Forest **OUTREACH NOTICE**

NEPA Planner

Permanent Full Time/Non-competitive or Promotional Detail

GS-0101/0401-11 – (1- Harrisburg, IL, & 1 – Bedford, IN)

GS-0401-09 – (1- Harrisburg, IL, & 1 – Bedford, IN)

The Shawnee and Hoosier National Forests are outreaching for a two permanent, full-time GS-0101/0401-11 NEPA Planner positions and two permanent, full-time GS-0401-09 NEPA Planner positions. These positions are located at the National Forest Supervisor's Office in Harrisburg, Illinois or Bedford, Indiana. These positions are non-supervisory.

For additional details on the positions, you may call Justin Dodson at 618-253-1018 or email justin.dodson@usda.gov.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please return the attached Outreach Response Form and full resume by the close of business on **December 7, 2023 to Justin Dodson justin.dodson@usda.gov**

The Shawnee is a bargaining unit location. The Hoosier is not a bargaining unit location.

GS – 0101/0401 – 11 - Major Duties (but not limited to)

Serves as a main point of contact for NEPA activities for the unit and a primary expert in the development and processing of NEPA documents. Is the primary contact to the public and other federal or public office on the NEPA processing of documents, appeals, etc.

Serves as a team leader or member of an interdisciplinary team carrying out complete environmental studies and evaluations concerning a variety of resources, such as social, cultural, economics, land, air, water, timber, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, and/or additional special area. Keeps supervisor abreast of the various levels of NEPA documentation.

Formulates various documents e.g., decision memos, environmental assessments and environmental impact statements and related instruments and make recommendation in order that Responsible Officials can make decisions on issues and affected resources or environments. Develops subject plans for specific areas or accountability (i.e., social, cultural or economic, etc.). Reviews and develops final documents concerning status of projects. Works with others concerning the efforts to utilize state-of-the-art techniques for analytical decision-making, statistical and economic analysis, information display and modification or adaption of them to fit units planning needs.

Develops the annual program of work for all aspects of the unit NEPA accomplishment program. Responsible for gathering all the appropriate information in order to develop the current and long-range project planning. Responsible for the development, monitoring and maintenance of planning documents and action plans for all aspects of the program of work, including monitoring targets and making changes when needed.

When needed, acts as contracting officer's representative (COR) for NEPA contracts. Based on environmental analyses develops contract statement of work. Based on NEPA documents, regulations, directive, manuals, etc. develops supplemental material when needed. Offers ideas and assistance concerning the execution of manuals, handbooks and field guides, and on operations of specific programs.

Supports resources specialists working on the interdisciplinary team and contributes to the team as they work through the evaluation, analysis and documentation concerning the proposals and decisions in environmental impact statements, environmental assessments, and/or categorical exclusions. Create work plans for specific projects including such information as time and personnel. Tracks and makes changes as needed based on work schedules and milestone objectives.

Provides direction and oversight during the NEPA process. Direction includes scoping, identification of issues, development of alternatives, and the creation of the NEPA document. Provides on-going guidance during the development of the documents from beginning to completion. Ensures the NEPA documents created by the interdisciplinary team are developed in accordance with applicable law, regulation, and policy. Reviews NEPA documents and specialist reports. Coordinates higher-level reviews as needed.

GS – 0401 – 09 - Major Duties (but not limited to)

Provides input for the unit interdisciplinary planning teams. Participates in developing the unit program of work for all aspects or portions of the unit-planning program. Advises, coordinates, or reviews the annual operating plans. Is responsible for developing the environmental analysis reports concerning resources activity. Participates in public relations events involving speaking engagements and field trips.

May lead interdisciplinary teams carrying out routine environmental studies and evaluations to determine the consequences of various actions or events, i.e., forest planning project, on the environment. Advises the unit staff officers of the different levels of NEPA documentation based on information provided by the interdisciplinary teams. Conducts routine environmental studies and evaluations linking a variety of resources, such as social economics, land, air, water, timber, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, and/or special management areas.

Supports team leader with work planning by tracking the progress of NEPA documents and fully supporting team members in meeting timelines. Provides writing, editing, and review support for various environmental analysis and decision documents.

Supports GIS specialists in identifying spatial information, assessing, interpreting, and applying GIS data to the NEPA process. Applies GIS data to exhibit assimilated resource management projects and to observe resource activities.

Assesses and documents environmental impacts on social, economic, environmental, and other resources and makes recommendations regarding the management of specific natural resources.

Performs field reconnaissance, collects, and analyzes data needed for preparation of environmental documents. Reviews permits, contracts, or work plans to ensure that the design criteria or mitigation specified in the NEPA decision have been incorporated into the implementing tool. Documents findings and makes recommendations on any needed actions. Reviews inquiries from federal, state, or local officials, commercial interests, consulting firms and private individuals to

determine how best to comply with NEPA requirements and resource responsibilities.

Gathers and reviews subject matter documents and includes the required information in the NEPA source document. Evaluates permits, contracts, or work plans to make sure that the design criteria or mitigation outlined in the NEPA decision have been combined into the implementing tool. Responsible for ensuring findings and recommendations are documented. Evaluates comments received from other federal, state, public agencies, tribes, etc. to determine how best to respond to their concerns in accordance with environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Description of the Forests

The Hoosier National Forest encompasses nearly 204,000 acres in South Central Indiana stretching south from Bloomington to the Ohio River and is located within a drive of two hours or less from Cincinnati, Ohio; Evansville and Indianapolis, Indiana; and Louisville, Kentucky. Two ranger districts include the Brownstown District in Bedford, Indiana and the Tell City District in Tell City, Indiana.



The Hoosier National Forest sits in the unglaciated hills of Southern Indiana. The Forest provides a range of opportunities and resources for people to enjoy. The many recreation opportunities including camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, mountain bike riding, and viewing scenery. The only congressionally designated wilderness in Indiana, the 13,000 acre Charles C. Deam Wilderness provides opportunities for users desiring higher levels of solitude. In addition the Forest has over 265 miles of trails for hiking, biking, or horseback riding.

The Hoosier works to provide integrated resource management on the complex mosaic that make up National Forest System Lands in Indiana. Only 31% of the land within the Forest Boundary is National Forest System land, this scattered ownership pattern adds a complexity to the management of this valued natural resource. Forest managers are responsible for protection

of some very unique resources. The Hoosier is located in an area rich in caves and karst features. These underground features are largely unknown to most Forest visitors but are home to many species that are specific to these habitats. The Hoosier has six endangered or threatened species: the fanshell, rough pigtoe, and sheepsnose mussels reside in rivers to the south; the gray, Indiana and northern long-eared bats and their habitat occur throughout the Forest. The wildlife program on the Forest focuses on management to provide habitat for these species as well as many others that occur throughout the area.

The Forest works to maintain and restore sustainable ecosystems. The vegetation management on the forest focuses on promoting native oak and hickory regeneration, reducing nonnative pine planted to restore over farmed lands, and reducing nonnative invasive plant and animal species.

The Hoosier National Forest organization is non-traditional with an emphasis on placing resource specialists closer to the ground. Certain Forest-level staff functions that traditionally reside in a Supervisor's Office work in a team environment and serve as District-level program managers. This serves to broaden District interdisciplinary teams and improve technology transfer, customer service, and quality of stewardship. We view the Districts as the backbone of the Forest Service organization and emphasize customer service at that level. **Additional information and an orientation video of the Forest may be found [Hoosier National Forest](#).**

Bedford, IN.

The Hoosier National Forest Supervisor's Office is co-located within the Brownstown Ranger District in Bedford, Indiana. Bedford is a full-service community of approximately 14,000 residents. Bedford has excellent schools, outstanding shopping, cultural amenities, and small town atmosphere. Bedford is in the Eastern Time zone and features a broad-based economy. Major area employers include GM Powertrain, Indiana Limestone, Manchester Tank, and Stone City Products. Bedford is known as the "Limestone Capital of the World" because of the abundance and quality of the limestone which has been used on many landmark buildings in the U.S., including the Empire State Building and the Pentagon.

Bedford has five elementary schools, one junior high school, one high school (includes area vocational school) and Bedford City College, which offers adult education and college credit courses. Eighteen miles north of Bedford is

Bloomington, home of Indiana University. In addition, Bedford is within commuting distance of six degree granting institutions. Indianapolis is approximately 70 miles north and is the state capitol. Housing prices, for purchase or rent, are reasonable and affordable. Local services include a wide variety of places of worship, a library, two hospitals providing comprehensive medical services, and a variety of banking, shopping facilities, and restaurants.

There are several communities within commuting distance of Bedford. Links are provided below:

[Bedford, Indiana](#); [Bloomington, Indiana](#); [Mitchell, Indiana](#); [Seymour, Indiana](#)

Climate:

The temperature in southern Indiana varies north to south. Although Indiana sometimes has temperatures below zero during the winter, the average temperatures in January range between 17°F and 35°F.

Rainfall is distributed evenly throughout the year. The average annual precipitation statewide is 40 in, ranging from about 35 in (89 cm) near Lake Michigan to 45 inches along the Ohio River; from, 1981 - 2010, Indianapolis had an average of 42 inches annually. The annual snowfall averages about 26 inches.

Places of Worship:

Churches representing all major denominations; as well as Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and other places of worship; can be found in communities across the area.

Economy:

Real estate in the area is moderately priced, as are utilities. Tourism is a developing economic force in the area. In recent years, several wineries and craft breweries have opened, adding to the tourism opportunities in the region.

Healthcare:

Healthcare facilities serving the area include full facility IU Health Bedford Hospital and St. Vincent Dunn Hospital, in Bedford, along with full service hospitals and medical practices in Bloomington. Services at these hospitals include cardiac units, oncology and neonatal units. Other hospitals providing care in the general area of the Hoosier include Perry County Memorial in Tell City, Indiana; Deaconess in Evansville, Indiana; and University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. All the hospitals provide 24-hour emergency room physician coverage and specialists.



Recreational and Cultural Activities:

The region has many opportunities for outdoor activities as well as small town festivals and fairs. In addition, there is easy access to larger cities including Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Nashville, Tennessee; and St. Louis, Missouri.

The Shawnee National Forest includes about 280,000 acres of National Forest System land and is the single largest publicly owned body of land in the State of Illinois. Within those lands, one can find the following:

- Seven Congressionally designated Wilderness Areas (about 10% of the Forest)
- Six candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Four National Natural Landmarks
- Four heritage resource sites on the National Register of Historic Places
- Two National Scenic Byways (NSB)



- Great River Road NSB, extending along the Mississippi River
- Ohio River NSB, along the Ohio, where it begins in Pennsylvania, traveling to Cairo, Illinois, where the Ohio meets the mighty Mississippi
- 80 designated Natural Areas considered important for botanical, ecological, geological, or zoological reasons (about 5% of the Forest). Ten of these natural areas are designated by the Forest Service as Research Natural Areas (9 ecological areas and 1 botanical area) to focus research on these high value ecological sites.
 - 56 ecological areas
 - 14 botanical areas
 - 3 geological areas
 - 7 zoological areas



Additional information about the Forest may be found at the [Shawnee National Forest](#) website.

Climate:

One can experience all four seasons in the southern Illinois region with an average of 3” of snow per year and temperatures rarely below 0 degrees. Summer days are sunny and humid with highs in the 80’s – 90’s, occasionally topping 100. Spring weather can occur in March, and fall weather can extend into November. During the spring and fall seasons, the climate and beauty of the area is especially compelling. Spring brings an abundance of blooming dogwoods, redbuds and wildflowers. The fall is saturated with color, as the leaves turn brilliant reds, gold and yellows. Garden of the Gods, the most visited site on the Forest, is a must-see during the fall color season. The unusual rock formations, coupled with the surrounding Garden of the Gods Wilderness, portray the beauty of southern Illinois at its finest.



Education:

Pre-schools through high schools can be found in most communities and rank high in the state. There are several community colleges in the area offering quite reasonable in-district tuition. Southern Illinois University, located in Carbondale, IL, offers a full range of baccalaureate through doctoral programs. Day care facilities also are available in most communities.

Houses of Worship:

Houses of Worship representing all major faiths can be found in communities across the region.

Economy:

Real estate in the area is moderately priced. The median price for purchasing a home is approximately \$120,000, and house rentals begin at approximately \$450 per month. Utilities are also priced moderately. Tourism is a developing economic force in the area. In recent years, several wineries have opened, offering two outstanding wine trails. Local breweries are also starting to emerge, adding to the tourism opportunities in the region.

With a mix of communities and towns, varying in population, Southern Illinois offers a rural environment with easy access to all possible amenities. Both shopping and entertainment opportunities are abundant within the area. Marion and Carbondale, IL along with Paducah, KY, offer shopping malls, movie theaters and several locally owned and operated restaurants along with major chain and fast-food restaurants. Additional information on local employment opportunities can be found at the following links:

[Harrisburg, IL – Companies and Businesses](#)

[Marion, IL – Companies and Businesses](#)

Carbondale, IL – Companies and Business

Jonesboro, IL – Companies and Business

Healthcare:

Healthcare facilities serving the area include full facility Harrisburg Medical Center (Hospital), Carbondale Doctor's Memorial Hospital and Marion Memorial Hospital. Services at these hospitals include cardiac units, oncology and neonatal units. Other hospitals providing care are Lourdes and Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, KY and Deaconess in Evansville, IN. All the hospitals provide 24-hour emergency room physician coverage and specialists.

Recreational and Cultural Activities:

Whether you're a barbecue fan, blues lover, outdoor recreational enthusiast, lover of small town life or big city adventurer, southern Illinois truly provides something for everyone in terms of social engagement opportunities and overall choice of recreational/cultural type activities.

With the perfect mix of small to mid-sized towns across the region coupled with easy access to bigger cities, including St. Louis, MO (located about 2 hours from Harrisburg, IL), Nashville, TN (located about 2.5 hours from Harrisburg, IL) and Chicago, IL (located about 6 hours from Harrisburg, IL), residents will find the ability to immerse themselves in the rich cultural and natural heritage encompassed in the area while also being able to easily travel and explore larger metropolitan areas nearby.

Festivals, fairs, artisan type craft events and more abound annually, and from more traditional American fare to Cuban, Thai, Japanese and more, a variety of restaurants representing global cuisine choices can be found across the region. Other opportunities, including concerts, theater engagements, etc, can also be discovered at a variety of events and locations, offering easy access to diverse recreational and cultural activities while also offering a beautiful, predominantly agricultural based area to call home.

To learn more about the area, please visit the following:

Marion, IL Chamber of Commerce

Saline County, IL Chamber of Commerce

Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau

Williamson County, IL Tourism Bureau

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

HOOSIER and SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST

Outreach Response Form

NEPA Planner, GS-0101/0401-11, Permanent Full Time/Detail (2 positions)

NEPA Planner, GS-0401-09, Permanent Full Time/Detail (2 positions)

Harrisburg, IL & Bedford, IN

Please submit outreach response and resume by December 7, 2023

Justin Dodson, justin.dodson@usda.gov

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

CURRENT EMPLOYER:

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT:

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:

SERIES AND GRADE (IF USFS):

CURRENT POSITION TITLE:

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY?

IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER-CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE, ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE REHIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AUTHORITIES?

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

VETERANS RECRUITMENT ACT

DISABLED VETERANS WITH 30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998

FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

PATHWAYS STUDENTS PROGRAM

OTHER:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR VACANCY!

USDA FOREST SERVICE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.