United States Department of Agriculture

Hoosier National Forest

"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

OUTREACH NOTICE

Forestry Technician
(Fire Engine Operator)

GS-0462-4

The Hoosier National Forest (Forest) is outreaching for a Forestry Technician (Fire Engine Operator) position. The position is a **permanent full-time appointment**. The duty station is located at the Tell City Ranger District Office in Tell City, Indiana. For additional details on the position, you may call Ryan Otto Fire Engine Captain at (812) 547-9254.

This Outreach Notice will help determine the potential applicant pool for the position and establish the appropriate recruitment method for the job advertisement. Depending on the results of this outreach, the position will be announced for applicants from either current government employees (MERIT) or the general public (DEMO). If you are interested in the position please complete the attached Outreach Response Form and return it to Ryan Otto, rjotto@fs.fed.us no later than 10/18/2016. There is no need to attach a resume, cover letter, or any other form of response at this time.

All respondents will be notified via email when the vacancy announcement becomes available. There will be a separate process to apply for the position.

Please reply to this outreach by October 18, 2016.

What is a Hoosier?

We are! Here on the only Forest named for the collective people of the state in which it is located, we pride ourselves on service to our communities and in stewarding this land and these resources for all the American people for generations to come.

Working for the Hoosier:

South-central Indiana is almost certainly not what you're expecting. With rolling, forested hillsides, a richness of cave and karst resources, historic sites, awe inspiring trails and top notch camping opportunities this National Forest is a hidden and little known treasure of the system. Hoosier employees have a long history of camaraderie and cohesive working relationships leading to a highly productive, rewarding and enjoyable working atmosphere where you'll be surrounded by dedicated and passionate people. As a small Forest, opportunities abound to gain exposure to the diversity of work and opportunities that the US Forest Service presents to its employees. The Hoosier workforce is a great mix of employees who have been on this Forest many years and have a deep knowledge of the area and its history and those that have experiences drawn from all parts of the country. Working on **the Hoosier can be a gateway to opportunities** with the Forest Service anywhere in America, **or an introduction to a place you'll fall in love with** and want to stay for many years.

Quality of life in southern Indiana is enjoyable and affordable. Whether you prefer small towns, a remote setting, or a larger more vibrant city with a major University and all the culture, entertainment, sports and restaurants that comes with such a setting; **working for the Hoosier you have choices**.

Love Outdoor Activities? Besides the hundreds of miles of trails, excellent campgrounds, multiple lakes for boating and fishing and other recreation activities on the Hoosier National Forest, Indiana has a diverse array of State Parks and Forests which complement those of the Forest Service. You can even find a downhill ski resort in Paoli.

Like Sports? Location doesn't get any better than this if you like sports of all kinds. Big Ten and ACC college athletics of all types can be found nearby at Indiana University and the University of Louisville. Indianapolis is a short drive away, home of the NFL's Colts and NBA's Pacers as well as the Indy 500, the Brickyard 400, and a Triple A minor league baseball. Major League Baseball is only a little further in Cincinnati.

Music, Theater, Comedy, Gaming and more? Indiana University is home to *the* premier music school in the country, offering public performance of all genres, plays, operas and ballet. The college town of Bloomington draws national and international performers of all kinds year-round on par with larger cities but without a need to fight traffic to access any of it and has a vibrant international restaurant scene. French Lick is home to a large casino and PGA golf course, and the adjacent West Baden Springs hotel offers a luxury hotel and spa. The area is home to a growing number of excellent breweries and wineries as well.

Fire Engine Operator Position and Responsibilities:

The Fire Engine Operator assists with the operation of a Type 6 wildland fire engine covering over 203,000 acres of National Forest Land. This positon has specialized duties such as: water handling specialist, chainsaw operator, and/or responsible for maintenance of specialized equipment used to respond to wildland urban interface and/or prescribed fire situations. Participates in wildland fire and safety training in the techniques, practices, and methods of fire suppression and in the safe, efficient operation and use of tools, equipment, and vehicles used in fire line activities, with emphasis on those used in the particular function assigned. Participates in crew proficiency checks and drills, safety sessions, and fire critiques. Ensures own and other's welfare and safety in all aspects of the assignment.

In addition, this position serves as a working member during prescribed fire planning, implementation and monitoring within a fuels program that treats 2,000 to 5,000 acres annually.

The incumbent will provide instructor training and on the job experience to assist in maintaining both primary and collateral duty fire personnel. As a leader, the incumbent works to promote a high quality, diverse and supportive Forest work environment.

Work Capacity Test (WCT) for wildland firefighters: This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed. Taking and passing the WCT at the arduous level is a "condition of employment." The arduous fitness (Pack) Test consists of a three (3) mile hike, within forty-five (45) minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack.

Firefighter retirement coverage: This is a primary/rigorous firefighter position under the provision of 5 USC 8336(c) (CSRS) and 8412(d) (FERS).

The selected individual will be subjected to a background investigation conducted by the Department of Homeland Security.

Description of the Forest:

The Hoosier National Forest encompasses over 203,000 acres in South Central Indiana stretching south from Bloomington to the Ohio River and is located within a two hour drive of 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 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 four endangered species: the fanshell and rough pigtoe mussels reside in rivers to the south; the gray and Indiana bats and their habitat occur throughout the Forest. The wildlife program on the Forest focuses on management to provide habitat for the species above as well and other species 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 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 about the Forest may be found at http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier.

Tell City:

The Tell City Ranger District Office is located in Tell City in Perry County. Tell City is located on the banks of the Ohio River and was founded in 1858 by the Swiss Colonization Society for Swiss and German immigrants. Settlement occurred early due to the cities proximity to the Ohio River. Community development was directly related to river travel. The city recognizes it's Swiss and German heritage each August at the annual Schweizer Fest. Perry County has a population of approximately 18,900 people, with an estimated 7,500 in Tell City. The area observes central time zone.

Major industries in the area include lumbering, manufacturing, and farming, additional area employers include ThyssenKrupp Waupaca, Mulzer Crushed Stone, ATTC Manufacturing, and Branchville Correctional Facility.

Perry County has 3 public elementary schools (1 in Tell City); 3 junior –senior high schools (7-12) (1 in Tell City). In addition there are two private schools located in the county. Perry County also boasts a state community college campus (Ivy Tech). Perry County Memorial Hospital was constructed in 2015. Housing in Perry County is very affordable. Median home values in Tell City are around $87,000.

Perry County's rolling hills along the Ohio River provide amazing views of natural beauty, the area is well suited to outdoor recreation pursuits. Several boat ramps on the Ohio River provide access for boating and fishing. The nearby Hoosier National Forest provides opportunities for camping, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, and more. Five man-made lakes in Perry County offer water-based recreation opportunities as well.

The Ohio River National Scenic Byway runs through the county providing scenic bicycling and driving areas that tell the story of the river, the county, and the culture of the area.
Find more information about the Tell City area by visiting http://www.perrycountyindiana.org.
The following link contains videos highlighting the quality of life and schools in Perry County:
http://www.pickperry.com/videos.html.

Climate:

The temperature in Indiana varies north to south with averages ranging from 49°F to 58°F. 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, with the southern part of the state generally being drier. 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; during 1971–2000, Indianapolis had an average of 41 inches annually. The annual snowfall in Indiana averages less than 22 inches.

Education:

Pre-schools through high schools can be found in most communities with southern Indiana schools ranking high in the state. There are several community colleges in the area offering quite reasonable in-district tuition. Indiana University, located in Bloomington, offers a full range of baccalaureate through doctoral programs. Day care facilities also are available in most communities.

Churches:

Churches representing all major denominations 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 $100,000, 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 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. 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.

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.

If you are interested in this position, be sure to respond to this outreach by October 18, 2016 in one of three ways:

E-mail: rjotto@fs.fed.us Fax: (812) 547-9260

Mail: Ryan J. Otto
Hoosier National Forest
248 15th Street
Tell City, IN 47586

For additional details on the position, you may call Ryan J. Otto at 812-547-9254 or cell at 812-608-0488.

By completing this form, you are indicating that you are interested in the following position:

- **Fire Engine Operator GS-0462-04, Permanent Full-time Position**

Location:

- **Region 9, Hoosier National Forest, Tell City, Indiana**

HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST

Fire Engine Operator

GS-0462-04

Return by **October 18, 2016**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:_____**Date:**_____

Address:_____

_____

_____

Phone: _____**Email address:**_____

Are you currently a Federal employee? Yes_____**No**_____

If YES, CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT:_____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE:_____

CURRENT POSITION TITLE:_____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: _____**USFS** _____**BLM** _____**OTHER:**_____

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: _____**PERMANENT** _____**TEMPORARY** _____**TERM**
_____**VRA** _____**PWD** _____**OTHER**

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

_____PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
_____VETERANS RECRUITMENT ACT
_____DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
_____VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
_____FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
_____PATHWAYS
_____OTHER _____

Please return before October 18, 2016 Fax # 812-547-9260 (attention Ryan Otto)

I will send you an e-mail message when the vacancy announcement is posted
Thank you for your interest in this position.