



OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENT
USDA Forest Service
Ashley National Forest
Supervisor's Office

The Ashley National Forest will soon be advertising for the following position:

POSITION: **Engineering Technician, GS-0802-7/8/9** This position is a permanent, fulltime position.

LOCATION: USDA Forest Service, Ashley National Forest, Vernal, Utah

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

This position is assigned to the Ashley National Forest Engineering Staff located in Vernal, Utah. The position will inspect construction projects, work with the engineering staff on design, survey, and preparation of drawings and contract packages, inventory road signs, install and monitor traffic counters, review designs, inspect roads, facilities and water/wastewater systems, and perform other related tasks. The ability to work in small teams safely and independently in remote locations scattered across a large geographic area is required. The position requires the selectee to possess and maintain a valid state driver's license. Work hours are typically from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Government housing is not provided with this position. Benefits are available with this position. Starting Salary range: GS-0802-7 Step 1 \$39,179 to GS-0802-9 Step 1 \$47,923.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:

It is expected that the position will be filled through a single vacancy announcement, which may be accessed through the U.S. Government's official website for employment opportunities at www.usajobs.gov (The position is not yet posted on this website). Individuals who respond to this outreach effort will be sent notice of the vacancy announcement when it is posted on the website.

Interested applicants, or those desiring further information, should contact Scott Bingham, Staff Officer for Engineering. You may reach Scott at 435-781-5107 or via e-mail at srbingham@fs.fed.us. Please include your phone number, email address, current mailing address and any additional information pertinent to this position in your response (See attached Outreach Response Form).

Outreach Reply Due Date: Monday March 31st

ABOUT THE ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/ashley>)

The Ashley National Forest encompasses almost a million and a half acres in northeastern Utah and southwestern Wyoming. The Forest lies in three distinct geographical areas: the east-west range of the Uinta Mountains, the Wyoming Basin, and the Tavaputs Plateau. Elevations range from 6,000 feet to over 13,500 feet.

Steep canyons, high mountain peaks, glaciated basins, large open meadows, and desert badlands contain a rich diversity of vegetation and wildlife. The grasses and shrubs of the high mountain desert are replaced by pinyon and juniper as the elevation rises. In mid-elevation areas, aspen dominates and becomes mixed with conifer. Higher up, the vegetation changes to conifer forest composed of lodgepole pine, fir, and spruce. Grasses, forbs, and stunted, twisted conifers called krumholtz are found above timberline. Wildlife is abundant. Larger species include bear, mountain lion, moose, elk, deer, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep. Mountain goats have recently been re-introduced to the Uintas.

Neighboring lands include the Uinta and Ouray Indian Reservation to the south, the Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests to the west and north, and a mixture of Bureau of Land Management, State of Utah, and private lands to the east and southeast. Relatively few tracts of private land lie within the Forest boundary.

The Ashley has three major recreation attractions of national significance:

The High Uintas Wilderness, established in 1984, comprises nearly one-half million acres across the Ashley and Wasatch-Cache National Forests. Within the Wilderness, elevations range from 8,000 feet to 13,582 feet at the top of Kings Peak, the highest peak in Utah. The Uinta Mountain range runs east-west from the Wasatch Mountains into Colorado. Pre-Cambrian rock formed from sediments laid down 600 million years ago makes up the core of the range. Glacial activity carved deep canyons and left a spectacular landscape of rolling, treeless peaks and stratified ridges interspersed with broad meadows and numerous lakes. The mountains below timberline are covered by coniferous forest; meadows are filled with streams and lush vegetation.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area lies in the northeast part of the Forest. Flaming Gorge Reservoir extends almost 90 miles into Wyoming and offers outstanding fishing and boating opportunities. Record-breaking German brown trout and large lake and rainbow trout have been taken from its waters.

The Green River below Flaming Gorge Dam is a world famous trout stream. The Little Hole National Recreation Trail parallels the river 7.3 miles from the dam to the Little Hole Recreation Complex. Rafting this section is a favorite pastime of visitors. Exhibits at Flaming Gorge Dam and Red Canyon Visitors Centers acquaint visitors with the area. At Ute Lookout Tower, visitors can enjoy a spectacular view and learn about the life of early Forest Service lookouts. The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area has three marinas and many campgrounds, some of which are open year round.

Sheep Creek Geologic Area is located about five miles south of Manila in the Flaming Gorge

National Recreation Area. Sheep Creek Canyon is filled with twisted and folded rock formations that expose 600 million years of the earth's history. Towering rock spires flank the road.

In addition to a fabulous recreation resource the Ashley National Forest has a tremendous heritage resource program and an active noxious weed program. The Forest has a Wildland Fire Use program that was successfully tested this past summer. Energy exploration is a prominent feature in the Uintah Basin. The Forest also has a range management program supported with some of the finest monitoring. A scenic and productive Forest, the Ashley has tremendous opportunities.

ABOUT VERNAL, UTAH

Nestled in a beautiful valley south of the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area and west of Dinosaur National Monument, Vernal is the county seat of Uintah County. Vernal City's population is about 9,000. When combined with the residents of surrounding communities, the population of the Ashley Valley is approximately 15,000. Vernal has its own Police Department and Uintah County has a fully staffed Sheriff's Department. The city also has a 25 person volunteer fire department. Wells Fargo Bank, Mountain America Credit Union, and Zions First National Bank have branches in Vernal.

Vernal is 180 miles east of Salt Lake City and 300 miles west of Denver. Great Lakes Airlines provides air transportation to and from Denver via the Vernal Municipal Airport. Daily bus service is provided by Greyhound and Trailways Bus Lines to Salt Lake City and Denver.

<http://www.city-data.com/city/Vernal-Utah.html>

<http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=26040>

<http://www.utahrealestate.com/>

Schools

Vernal has six elementary schools, one middle school, one junior high, two high schools, and a private Christian School. One high school is a special-purpose accredited high school for students 14 years and above who wish to pursue a quality education in a non-traditional model.

The Uintah District Learning Center provides special education opportunities for children with special needs.

Utah State University, with branch campuses in Vernal and neighboring Roosevelt offer 13 complete bachelor degree programs and seven complete master degree programs. Uintah Basin Applied Technology Center offers Certificates of Competency for technical entry-level work.

Health Care

Ashley Valley Medical Center, a 36-bed hospital with 11 physicians on staff provides a full

complement of auxiliary services, complete with a 24 hour, fully staffed emergency room. Physicians from Salt Lake City also provide specialized, part-time services. Major hospitals are located in Salt Lake City and Provo.

For extended medical care, the Uintah Care Center is a 50-bed nursing home with additional facilities to provide out patient care on a daily basis. Child day care centers and preschools are available in Vernal. The community also has several dentists, two podiatrists, a pediatrician, two optometrists, an obstetrician/gynecologist, and five chiropractors. A variety of mental health professionals have practices in the community. Two veterinary clinics provide care for both large and small animals.

Churches

Vernal offers a relatively diverse range of churches, including: Assembly of God, Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Church of Christ, Congregational, Episcopal, Jehovah Witness, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Nazarene, Pentecostal, and Lutheran.

Cultural Events

Several cultural events occur throughout the year, including the Outlaw Trail Festival, Uintah County Fair, Festival of the Arts, Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo, Dinosaur Days, Dino-Soar Hot Air Balloon Festival, and the annual Christmas fair. The Uintah Arts Council sponsors several musical events, and Utah State University and Uintah High School produce a play each year.

Civic and Service Organizations

Active community and service clubs in Vernal include the Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce, Lions, Elks, Toastmasters, Rotary, Boy Scouts, 4-H, Masonic Lodge, Search and Rescue, Cultural Arts and American Legion, to name a few. Vernal has several dance schools instructing ballet, jazz, clogging, and tap. Gymnastic classes for children are available. Vernal has a large, well-stocked public library. The Utah Field House of Natural History is located adjacent to the popular Dinosaur Gardens in downtown. The Golden Age Senior Center provides activities, luncheons, transportation and dances for area senior citizens.

Recreation Opportunities

Vernal has parks, a recreation center with swimming pool, water slides, rock wall and gym, movie theaters, and an 18-hole golf course.

Several nearby rivers and lakes offer excellent fishing and boating opportunities. River trips on the Green River are also available through local guides. Rafts can be rented from local vendors.

Basketball, volleyball, softball, and baseball leagues are available for adults. Little League football, baseball, basketball, soccer, ice hockey, wrestling, and a swim team for children are locally sponsored activities.

Climate

Vernal sits at approximately 5,000 feet above sea level. Vernal enjoys four beautiful, temperate seasons; the climate is semi-arid with low humidity. Annual precipitation averages 15-20", mostly in the form of winter snows and spring/fall rains. Winter temperatures usually hover in the 20s-30s during the day, but will occasionally drop to sub-zero. Mid-summer

temperatures can reach 100 degrees, but will generally linger in the low-mid 90s, dipping into the 50s at night.

Economic Base

Oil and gas exploration and production, along with oil shale, tar sands, gilsonite, phosphate, and timber are the major commodities of the local economy.

Tourism is a growing industry. Wal-Mart Supercenter and Kmart are major department stores in the area and provide employment for local residents. Several government offices located in Vernal include the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Farmers Home Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs and many state, county, and city offices.

Housing

The average apartment rental is around \$750.00 to \$900.00 a month. Rental homes are not readily available. Average purchase price for a basic three-bedroom home ranges from \$185,000 to \$290,000. Government housing is not available.

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

I am interested in this position on the Ashley National Forest, Vernal, Utah.
Position Title/Series/Grade: **Engineering Technician, GS-0802-7/8/9**

Please reply by March 31st, 2013

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Are you currently a Federal employee? Yes ___ No ___

IF YES, CURRENT AGENCY/LOCATION: _____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: _____

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

IF NO, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT _____

YEARS AND TYPE OF EXPERIENCE RELATED TO THIS POSITION: _____

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 READJUSTMENT
- _____ DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
- _____ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
- _____ FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
- _____ PATHWAYS PROGRAM
- _____ OTHER _____

Please return the Outreach form to Scott Bingham, Engineering Staff Officer via email at srbingham@fs.fed.us