

**OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENT  
Mark Twain National Forest**

**January 28, 2011**

**Realty Specialist/Special Uses (Zone)  
GS-1170-9/11**

**Open Continuous Register Vacancy Announcement #:  
Perm-OCR-1170-7911-RLTYSP-G  
Perm-OCR-1170-911-RLTYSP-DP**

**We expect to pull the Referral List on March 4, 2011**

***Introduction:***

The Mark Twain National Forest, is advertising a Realty Specialist/Special Uses position that will be zoned for the districts of Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek (HRCC) and the Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs (ACW) District. The position will be advertised as a GS 1170 9/11. The position's duty station will be at either the Houston office, located in Houston, Missouri or at the Ava District Office located in Ava, Missouri. The applicant will choose which duty station to be located. The position will be supervised by the District Ranger at either Houston or Ava, Missouri.

The outreach and vacancy announcement will run concurrently. The position announcement is found on [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

Please apply to Vacancy Announcement number **Perm-OCR-1170-7911-RLTYSP-G and/or Perm-OCR-1170-911-RLTYSP-DP. Remember to specify location of the position when applying. For further information, you may contact Kim Bittle, District Ranger at 417-967-4194 or [kbittle@fs.fed.us](mailto:kbittle@fs.fed.us).**

**Major Duties:**

The position will be part of the Forests' Zone Lands Staff performing a variety of lands functions with emphasis on issuing special use permits and other land use authorizations. The position will support the west zone of the Forest which includes five units of the the Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs and Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger Districts.

The incumbent serves as one of three Zone Realty Specialists for the administration of nearly 300 lands special use authorizations. The Zone processes approximately 15 new or amended permits annually. Currently the Zone has a backlog of 60 permits including the consolidation of 16 of utility distribution permits. In addition to lands special use workload, the position is involved in the coordination of land adjustment projects, recreation special use permit administration, boundary management assistance, and

land status research.

**Duties also include:**

- ✓ Assistance in right-of-way acquisitions,
- ✓ Land exchanges and land acquisitions,
- ✓ Conducts or manages surveys, inspections, or negotiations,
- ✓ Ensures compliance with applicable federal regulations and legislation relating to matters such as environmental safety, fire safety, historic preservation and archeological resources, natural resources protection, relocation issues, and procurement processes,
- ✓ Coordination with Districts on the zone and other agencies to ensure cooperation and encourage partnerships in managing multi-use natural resources.

**ABOUT THE FOREST:**

The [Mark Twain National Forest](#) is made up of six ranger districts, located in the southern third of the state. The Forest Supervisor's Office is located in Rolla, Missouri. The Mark Twain NF contains approximately 1.5 million acres, comprised mainly of upland hardwoods and some associated shortleaf pine. A full range of vegetation and recreation management activities on the forest include timber harvest and regeneration activities, TSI, prescribed fire, developed and dispersed recreation, and mining.

**ABOUT THE DISTRICT:**

The **Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District** covers approximately 350,000 acres with approximately 215,000 acres being in Federal ownership. It is located in seven Missouri counties: Boone, Callaway, Laclede, Phelps, Pulaski, Texas, and Wright. The District is rich in Stream/Riparian habitat, has three rivers that cross through the District (Little Piney, Big Piney & Gasconade) which accommodates boating, river fishing family canoeing and tubing, Paddy Creek Wilderness (7060 acres) has numerous horse/hiking activities. Also, the District has one of the greatest densities of cave and karsts features within the state and two of the largest naturally formed sinkholes, one designated State Natural Area, it's rich in cultural resources with thriving state partnerships, six developed recreation areas, horse/hiking trails located on a portion of the Trail of Tears, In addition, it has a large special uses program, a diverse Wildlife program with the highest concentration of Indiana Bat hibernacula on the forest, a progressive prescribed Fire program with great working relationship with the RFD's, 23 grazing permits, stable Timber program for oak and pine management, and a well established NEPA program with vast self volumes of proposals. The District hosts a regional & national award winning partnership with the Cedar Creek Grazing Association which holds 38 allotments under one permit. Moreover, the District has several zoned positions with the neighboring district to facilitate cohesive program management for improved business acumen. As well as, surrounds the military installation Fort Leonard Wood and coordinates mutually beneficial natural resource management. Also, is known for some of the best wild turkey hunting in the country and prized blue ribbon trout fishing. Even with three separate offices the district personnel works seamlessly to accomplish the annul program of work!

The **Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District** contains approximately 306,000 acres of the Mark Twain National Forest's total of approximately 1.4 million acres. The District program of work includes management of the largest acreage of Federally owned glades in the State of Missouri; management of three State Natural Areas; timber harvesting for utilization and other resource objectives; three recreation fee demo campgrounds (one of which connects to 80 plus miles of ATV and motorcycle trails), two day use areas, three scenic byways, one national recreation trail and many dispersed recreation opportunities. The program of work also includes the management of three Wilderness Areas: Hercules Glades – 12,315 acres (Ava unit); Piney Creek – 8,142 acres (Cassville

unit); and Devil's Backbone – 6,595 acres (Willow Springs unit); special uses management is increasing with the emphasis in road access, recreation events, utilities and commercial outfitter and guide uses. The District fire program averages approximately 40 to 60 wildfires per year with a prescribed fire goal of over 10,000 acres per year. There are numerous non-recreational caves on the District and Forest, managed for various Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive species. An active heritage program exists on the A/C/W RD. It is rich in cultural resources including Native American, Civil War and Civilian Conservation Corps history. Ecosystems on the District include cedar glade, oak, oak-pine, and pine forests, oak savanna, and open woodlands. The terrain ranges from the rough breaks and dissected hill country to the flat plains. Walking conditions can range from open park like conditions to steep slopes with dense mid and understories.

***More information about the communities of Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek or Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs can be found at:***

***[http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/marktwain/ranger\\_districts/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/marktwain/ranger_districts/)***

### **ABOUT THE COMMUNITY:**

#### **HOUSTON, MISSOURI**

Elevation: 1,160 feet. Population: 1,196. Information is as of the 2000 census. Houston, Missouri is on Highway 63 South of Rolla, Missouri - 45 miles; and East of Springfield, Missouri - 85 miles. There are houses for sale \$60,000.00 to \$250,000.00. Majority are three-bedroom homes and some two-bedroom homes. Rental houses are difficult to obtain with moderately high rent for this area - \$450 to \$900 per month plus utilities. Stoves and refrigerators normally not furnished except with furnished apartments.

Government Quarters: None.

Schools: [Kindergarten through High School](#) with an enrollment of approximately 1,100. The High School has an A+ status in 1999, with program focus on academic and technical education; [Texas County Technical Institute](#) (800) 835-1130 [www.texascountytech.edu](http://www.texascountytech.edu)

Hospital: Texas County Memorial Hospital located in Houston - 66 beds. A 96 bed skilled nursing home is also located in Houston (Houston House).

Doctors: 12 doctors and 3 chiropractors; one Dentist's office. Nearest specialists located in Rolla, Missouri and Springfield, Missouri.

Churches: Catholic, Methodist, Christian, several Baptist Churches, Church of Christ, Assembly of God, Church of God, and Lutheran Church.

Recreation & fitness Opportunities include: Swimming: Public Swimming Pool, Supervised Summer Playgrounds, Full-time Parks and Recreation Director, Summer Day Camp, Little League, Babe Ruth, Girls Softball, Toss and Tee Ball theaters, One Theater and One Drive-In Theater; fitness center.

Sports and Events: Basketball, Football, and Baseball. Other: Golf Course (nine holes), Emmett Kelly Clown Festival, Texas County Fair; Annual Tree Lighting festivities. Hunting and Fishing is good (small game), - Sportsman Club; Tennis, Bowling and Canoeing.

Shopping: One supermarket, three clothing shops, one shoe store, two drug stores, dollar stores, appliance store, super Wal-Mart, two car dealers, Chevrolet – Oldsmobile & Ford - Mercury.

There are four banks with full banking facilities.

Climate: Texas County enjoys the beauty of all four seasons. The average temperature of the warmest month (July) is 80 – 85 degrees. The coolest month (January) is 20 – 25 degrees. The average rainfall is 41 inches with an average snowfall of 15 inches.

### **Houston, Missouri Web sites of interest:**

Texas County Medical Clinic	<a href="http://www.tcmh.org">www.tcmh.org</a>
Century 21 Real Estate	<a href="http://www.c21oaktreerealty.com">www.c21oaktreerealty.com</a>
ReMax Farm & Home	<a href="http://www.Farmhomesrealty.com">www.Farmhomesrealty.com</a>
Houston Herald	<a href="http://www.houstonherald.com">www.houstonherald.com</a>
Chamber of Commerce	<a href="http://www.houstonmochamber.com">www.houstonmochamber.com</a>

### **AVA, MISSOURI**

Ava, Missouri has a population of approximately 3,000 and is located in south central Missouri in the heart of the Missouri Ozarks in Douglas County (population est. 15,000). It is 60 miles southeast of Springfield, Missouri, 13 miles south of U.S. Route 60 and 60 minutes east of Branson, Missouri, just a stone's throw from our Ava and Cassville units. Ava is the Douglas County seat. It is a full service community.

**Recreation:** Outdoor recreation opportunities abound and include fishing, hunting, hiking, nature watching, camping, mountain biking, and boating. Ava is 45 to 90 minutes from Table Rock Lake, Lake Taneycomo, and Bull Shoals lakes for boating and fishing. A municipal pool is located in the town of Ava and a private pool exists at the Ava Country Club. Other facilities and amenities available in Ava include: the newly built MOCH Wellness Center; playgrounds; a variety of children's sports programs, such as softball, baseball, soccer, basketball, and football; a 9-hole country club golf course (grass greens), and tennis courts. Ava is also the home of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, which is the only place in the world where a fox trotter can be registered.

**Industry:** Primarily rural-agricultural with the emphasis on dairy farms, cattle ranching, sawmills and small business. Copeland Manufacturing is Ava's only large industrial plant.

**Airport:** Ava is home to the Ava Bill Martin Memorial Airport. This airport is publicly owned by the City of Ava and accommodates small aircraft.

**Real Estate:** Homes in the Ava community and surrounding areas range from \$45,000 to \$150,000 plus; some include acreage. The majority are two to three bedroom homes. Rental houses are difficult to obtain, rental rates are \$300 to \$450 per month plus utilities. There are four trailer parks in the area. Buildable land at reasonable prices is available. *No government quarters are available.*

**Education:** Education opportunities include public and private, primary and secondary schools. In addition, Drury University and Southwestern Missouri State University have satellite extensions in Ava. The Ava High School has AAA classification and hosts a vocational education program. Douglas County Public Library is also located in Ava.

**Medical care:** Multiple health care providers are available in Ava, such as St. Johns, Cox Health, and independent providers. However, the nearest hospitals and specialists are located in Springfield, Missouri. Residents of the Ava area are eligible to become members of Air Evac EMS, Inc., which operates Air Evac Lifeteam. This is the largest independently owned and operated membership-supported air medical service in the United States, conducting its operations through 95 mutually-supporting air medical bases across 14 states.

**Shopping:** Shopping opportunities are better than average for a town of this size. Ava hosts a natural food store, Wal-Mart, antiques stores, archery shop, and a variety of restaurants. In addition, Ava is approximately one hour from Springfield and Branson. Branson is world famous for musical shows and

Silver Dollar City. There are four banks with full banking facilities and three full service savings and loan establishments as well. Movie goers have access to one theater in Ava.

Churches and civic organizations: Churches of many denominations, such as Catholic, Methodist, Christian, several Baptist Churches, Church of Christ, Assembly of God, Church of God, Lutheran, Church of Latter-Day Saints, Seventh-Day Adventist, and Pentecostal, can be found in Ava. Civic organizations include Lion's Club, Rotary, and Kiwanis Clubs.

Climate: Douglas County enjoys the beauty of all four seasons. The average temperature of the warmest month (July) is 89 degrees. The coolest month (January) is 22 degrees. The average rainfall is 42 inches with an average snowfall of 15 inches.

**Ava, Missouri Web sites of interest:**

Chamber of Commerce                      [www.avachamber.org](http://www.avachamber.org)  
Douglas Co. Herald                         [www.douglascountyherald.com](http://www.douglascountyherald.com)

**For additional information about this opportunity, please contact :**

**Kimberly Bittle, HRCC District Ranger at [kbittle@fs.fed.us](mailto:kbittle@fs.fed.us) or by phone (417) -967-4194. Or Jenny Farenbaugh, ACW District Ranger at [jfarenbaugh@fs.fed.us](mailto:jfarenbaugh@fs.fed.us) or by phone 417-683-4428.**

**If you are interested in joining our team, please provide the following information to Kimberly Bittle no later than February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade and series: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency working for: \_\_\_\_\_