



United States Department of Agriculture



Outreach Notice Forestry Technician (Range) GS-0462-05/06/07

USDA Forest Service – Eastern Region
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
Wilmington, Illinois 60481



Positions Anticipated (1): Forestry Technician (Range), with potential to fill at the GS 5/6/7 pay grades.

Tour of Duty: Permanent Full Time.

Come and be a part of our diverse, dedicated team on the ***only tallgrass prairie*** in the USDA Forest Service! The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is an ideal place to contribute your skills working in our range management and bison programs as a **Forestry Technician (Range) (GS-0462-05/06/07)**. The official duty station is Wilmington, Illinois – a small town about 45 miles from Chicago that is nestled amid a confluence of rivers, state parks, and other natural areas near historic Route 66. There are unforgettable ties to the World War II past as well as scores of historical sites tied to the Illinois & Michigan Canal.

The Surrounding Area

The area where we are working to restore native Illinois tallgrass prairie is also a delightful tourist attraction for serious antiquing, fishing, hunting and car rides along Historic Route 66, one of America's most beloved stretches of nostalgic highway. You will work just 45 miles southwest of one of the most dynamic, fascinating cities in the world – Chicago. We are near a Metra line that frequently runs hour-long train rides into Chicago. You will be within easy transit of this rich mecca of entertainment & culture that is known everywhere for its legendary world-class museums, jazz and blues clubs and some of the best food in the country, including Chicago's world-renowned signature food items like the deep dish pizza, the Chicago-style hot dog (never with ketchup!) and more. Join us as we make history and build cornerstones for the future here while making the public a part of it.

About Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie was established in 1996 as part of the conversion of the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, which is administered by the USDA Forest Service. It is also the largest open space in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area. Midewin is implementing its first Land and Resource Management Plan to accomplish the four purposes outlined in the establishing legislation:

- To manage the land and water resources to conserve and enhance native populations and habitats of fish, wildlife, and plants, including rare and endangered species;
- To provide opportunities for scientific, environmental, and land use education and research;
- To allow continued agricultural use under certain conditions; and
- To provide a variety of recreation opportunities.

At 18,500 acres, Midewin is unusual in size and also has an unusually wide variety of partners who collaborate with us in our restoration goals. We are working with over 275 species of native Illinois prairie plants utilizing a mostly volunteer workforce to help restore the prairie. For an overview of what's current and planned at Midewin, visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Midewin (website www.fs.fed.us/mntp).

Be a part of the team that is essential to the restoration of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, where both cattle and (experimentally) American bison are used to help manage large tracts of grassland and prairie habitats. As a Forestry Technician (Range) you will help a key mission area by assisting management of our paid/leased cattle/grazing allotments as well as our USDA Forest Service-owned experimental herd of American Bison. You will be an essential member of our Natural Resources and Restoration Team, which is tasked with restoring habitat for species or natural communities throughout Midewin including: **234 species of resident or migrant birds, 1,000+ species of insects, 570 species of vascular plants, 53 species of fish, 27 species of mammals, 25 species of amphibians and reptiles, 22 miles of streams, and several thousand acres of restored prairie and grassland.**

Major Duties

This position is within the Restoration/Natural Resources Team. Work (80% of time) would be split between the range (cattle) program and bison herd. Normal tasks would include working directly with lessees/cattle owners, collecting and digitizing/storing data on forage quality and structure, maintaining desired forage conditions (by mowing and or targeted herbicide application), inspection and minor maintenance and repairs to fences, locks, corals, and

watering facilities. In addition, our bison herd is subject of a multi-year study into its effects on prairie restoration and wildlife habitat. As our bison herd is one of the most visible points of public interest on the prairie, monitoring and ensuring its health and welfare is a top priority. You would participate in headcounts, well-being checks, assist researchers, and participate in annual health exams of the bison lead by a licensed veterinarian. Ability to identify or learn native and forage plants as well as invasive plant species is an important aspect of job performance, as is an ability to work in hot/humid summer days, or cold/windy conditions outdoors. Forestry (Range) Technicians are expected to interact regularly with cattle owners (and their employees) who pay to lease rangeland, and may be required on short notice to assist lessees with emergency situations. All members of the Natural Resources Team may occasionally be assigned other work duties (no more than 20% of time) in other program areas within the team (e.g., Botany, Horticulture, Vegetation Management, Wildlife, or Water) or other teams at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (e.g., Engineering/Trails, or Public Affairs/Visitor Services).

For additional information: Mike Redmer, Midewin Natural Resources and Restoration Team Leader: Michael.Redmer@usda.gov, or by phone at (779) 230-0601.

To respond:

To respond to this outreach, complete the form on page 4 (below) and return to Michael.Redmer@usda.gov by February 11, 2022.



**USDA Forest Service is an Equal Employment
Opportunity Employer
Outreach Response Form**

Position Title/Series/Grade:

Forestry Technician (Range) GS-462-05/06/07

Location: Prairie Supervisor’s Office, Wilmington, Illinois 60481

* Please note: the target grade for this position is a GS-05/06/07. We will use the outreach to determine how best to advertise, which means if we do not feel there will be an adequate candidate pool, then we will expand how it is advertised accordingly (i.e., Forest Service-wide, Government-wide, external).

Please complete and return the outreach notice form to Michael.Redmer@usda.gov by Feb 11, 2022.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Are you currently a federal employee? ____ YES ____ NO

IF “Yes”:


Current Agency and location: _____

Type of Appointment: ____ Permanent ____ Term ____ Temporary

Current title/series/grade: _____

If you are not a current permanent (career or career-conditional) employee, please indicate if you are eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities:

- Person with Disabilities
- Thirty (30%) or More Disabled Veterans
- Veterans Employment Opportunity Act
- Veterans Recruitment Appointment
- Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act
- Resource Assistant Program eligible
- Public Land Corps eligible
- Pathways-Intern Indefinite, Pathways-Intern NTE or Pathways Recent Graduates
- Pathways-Presidential Management Fellows (PMF)
- Other _____

(Additional Hiring Authorities can be found at:  [HiringAuthorities](#))

Thank you for your interest in employment with the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

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