



United States Department of Agriculture

Shawnee National Forest



“Caring for the Land and Serving People”



OUTREACH NOTICE

NEPA PLANNER

GS-0401-11

The Shawnee National Forest will soon be advertising a GS-0401-GS11, NEPA Planner position. The position is a **permanent full-time appointment**, with the duty station in Vienna, IL.

The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to 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), the general public (DEMO), or both.

Anyone interested is encouraged to complete the attached Outreach Response Form. Respondents will be notified via email when the vacancy announcement becomes available. You will still need to apply for the job separately.

Please reply to this outreach by October 28, 2016.

Position:

The position is responsible for performing work involved in Natural Resources Planning and Environmental law compliance, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Major Duties:

- 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.
- Serves as the main point of contact for NEPA activities for the Forest and the primary expert in the development and processing of NEPA documents.
- Serves as contact for facilitating the project planning efforts between inter—and intra-agency organizations.
- Develops the annual program of work for all aspects of the Forest's NEPA program. Responsible for the development, monitoring and maintenance of planning documents and action plans.
- Serves as a member or lead of an interdisciplinary team carrying out complete environmental studies and evaluations concerning a variety of resources. Supports resource specialists working on ID teams and contributes through evaluation, analysis and documentation concerning proposals and decisions. Provides direction and coordination during the NEPA process.
- Keeps supervisor abreast of the various levels of NEPA documentation. Provides advice to Responding Official regarding informational needs.
- Formulates various documents e.g., decision memos, environmental assessments and environmental impact statements and related instruments and make recommendations. Develops subject plans for specific areas or accountability (i.e., water, soils, habitat management.). Reviews and develops final documents.
- Gathers and evaluates subject matter documents prepared by others and includes the required information and assumptions into the NEPA source document.
- May create study reports and evaluations which form part or all of a NEPA informational document.
- Conducts and coordinates annual project level monitoring and Forest Plan monitoring as needed.
- Responsible for ensuring environmental documents comply with Federal laws such as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Forest Management Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Description of the Forest:

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



The Forest sits at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and is rich in history, reflecting the pioneer movement of Americans into the west. Although predominantly oak-hickory, pine was planted in many areas in the past. Swamps contain tupelo and cypress communities. Razorback ridges associated with the Ozark up-thrust are found on the west side of the Forest; the broader ridges associated with the Shawnee hills are found on the east side of the Forest. The Wisconsin glacier stopped north of the Shawnee, so the Grand Prairie (and its corn fields) most associated with the state of Illinois starts 40 miles north of the Forest.

The Shawnee is located within a day's drive (350 miles) of more than 45 million people, or 17% of the U.S. population (U.S. Census Bureau, 7-1-97 estimate). 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.

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 \$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](#)

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](#)

[Union County, IL Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Carbondale, IL Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Jackson County, IL](#)

[Southern Illinois Tourism](#)

[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.

Outreach Response Form

If you are interested in these positions, be sure to respond to this outreach by October 13th, 2016 in one of three ways:

E-mail: lpitcher@fs.fed.us

Fax: (618) 658-1300

Mail: Leonard Pitcher
Shawnee National Forest
602 North First Street
Vienna, IL 62995

For additional details on the position, you may call Leonard Pitcher at 618-658-1302.

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

GS-0401-11 NEPA Planner

Location: Region 9, Shawnee National Forest, Hidden Springs and Mississippi Bluffs RD, Vienna, Illinois

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name		Date		
Address				
City		State		
Zip		E-Mail		
Phone number(s)				
Are you currently a federal employee				
If Yes, current agency and location				
current title/series/grade				
Type of Appointment if Current Government Employee	Permanent	Term	Temporary	
Type of Schedule if Government Employee	Full-time	Part-time	Intermittent	
If you are not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities (check the appropriate box):				
	Person with Disabilities			
	Veteran's Recruitment Act			
	Former Peace Corps Volunteer			
	Disabled Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability			
	Pathways Program (Students & Recent Graduates):			
	Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998			
	Other, please describe:			