

*****OUTREACH/VACANCY OPPORTUNITY*****

District Ranger

GS-0340-12



**Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands
Bessey Ranger District
Halsey, Nebraska**

THE POSITION

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands is advertising and filling a GS-0340-12 District Ranger position on the Bessey Ranger District which is located one mile west of Halsey, Nebraska in the Sandhills Region of north-central Nebraska. This position will report directly to the Forests and Grasslands Supervisor.

The District Ranger has responsibility for providing technical and administrative leadership in, and direction to, all programs throughout the Bessey Ranger District. The Ranger functions and contributes as a full member of the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands Leadership Team. District employees are managing multiple high profile priorities such as travel management, Range Allotment Management Planning on the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest, a large high use recreation program/facilities, facilities maintenance and healthy forests and fuels.

THE DISTRICT

The District of 206,000 acres consists of two portions, part of the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands and the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest, which is located 90 miles to the north of the main office in Halsey, Nebraska. This unique environment combines the grasslands of the prairie with the world's largest hand planted Forest. The Forest, planted in 1902, encompasses about 90,000 acres and provides important habitat for wildlife, including two endangered species. The topography consists of low rolling hills, ridges, and grass covered dunes and aquifer-fed rivers. The Bessey recreation complex is a vacation destination and provides a large recreation program including: extensive developed campgrounds, dispersed camping, fishing and floating opportunities, horse trails, and ATV trails. Two other campgrounds are located some distance from the complex and there is one primitive campground with 27 sites at the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest. Rangeland health, wildlife habitat, and fuels reduction are also major program areas on the District. With very little of the area in cropland, livestock grazing is very important to local lifestyles and the local economy. Recent changes in livestock management practices have increased habitat for prairie grouse and associated wildlife species. Grouse hunting is popular and attracts participants from across the Nation.

The District is co-located with the Bessey Nursery, the nation's oldest, continuously operating tree seedling nursery.

THE FORESTS & GRASSLANDS

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands are situated across two states and encompasses five Ranger Districts and one Nursery. The Pine Ridge Ranger District includes the Nebraska National Forest and Oglala National Grassland in the northwest corner of Nebraska. The Bessey Ranger District includes a portion of the Nebraska National Forest in west-central Nebraska and the McKelvie National Forest in north-central Nebraska. The Bessey Nursery is co-located with the Bessey Ranger District at Halsey, Nebraska. The Fall River Ranger District and Wall Ranger District share management of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland across southwestern South Dakota. The Ft. Pierre National Grassland is managed by the Ft. Pierre Ranger District and is situated in south-central South Dakota.

The Nebraska units have approximately 75 permanent employees and several term, seasonal, and temporary employees. The Supervisor's Office is staffed with approximately 35 employees and is co-located with the Pine Ridge Ranger District. The Pine Ridge Job Corps Center is located 10 miles south of Chadron, Nebraska and is a close partner with the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands.

The units have a unique variety of programs and emphasis areas that include:

- Implementation of the Forests and Grasslands Plan
- Management and sustainability of the Bessey Nursery
- Soldier Creek Wilderness, two proposed Grasslands Wilderness Areas and Pine Ridge National Recreation Area

- Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed, Toadstool Geological Park and the National Grasslands Visitor Center
- Developed campgrounds and over 100 miles of hiking trails
- Over 300 grazing allotments, 60 direct permittees, and seven grazing associations
- An active wildlife program with numerous partnership agreements for habitat improvement across forest and grassland ecosystems
- Significant populations of huntable and viewable wildlife such as wild turkey, mule and white-tailed deer, and elk
- An aggressive forest and grassland health program, with wildland/urban interface, development of cooperative range monitoring, habitat improvement projects for numerous species including black footed ferrets. Project planning includes partnerships with Nebraska and South Dakota state agencies.
- Ongoing wildland fire recovery efforts

The emphasis over the next few years will be:

- Forests and Grasslands Plan Implementation;
- Recreation strategy & travel management implementation;
- Implementation of diverse wildlife program including Black-tailed Prairie Dog Management Conservation and Management Plan;
- Vegetative management and ecosystem health improvement in ponderosa pine and grassland ecosystems;
- Urban and non-urban fuels reduction;
- Range Allotment Management Planning across the National Forests and Grasslands;
- Invasive weed management and coordination with state, county and private land partners;
- Strong coordination with grazing permittees, conservation community, recreation enthusiasts and other partners;
- Strengthening community relationships.

More information regarding the Forest is available through the internet at:

www.fs.fed.us/r2/nebraska

LOCATION

The position is located at the Bessey Ranger District, one mile west of Halsey, Nebraska, in the central part of the state in the scenic “Sandhills” area. Halsey has a population of approximately 60, a post office, tavern/restaurant, and a motel. Other services available in the surrounding communities include banks, grocery stores, gas stations, county government offices, and churches. Full service communities are approximately within a one-hour drive and include Broken Bow (55 miles), Valentine (70 miles), and North Platte (80 miles). The primary industry in this area is ranching and agriculture.

Temperatures are moderate, though seasonal. The average January temperature is 10° F and an average July temperature is 89° F. Average precipitation is 21 inches, and average snowfall is 31 inches. Elevation is 2880 feet above sea level.

Government housing will be available after October 1, 2010. Rental apartments range from \$250 to \$300 per month in nearby Thedford, Nebraska (16 miles) and \$300 to \$360 a month in Broken Bow, NE (55 miles). The average cost of a home to purchase is approximately \$63,000 in Thedford, NE and \$67,700 in Broken Bow, NE. Nebraska does have a State Income Tax (<http://www.revenue.ne.gov>).

There is a consolidated school system, which serves four local school districts. K-6th grade students attend classes in Halsey, and 7th-12th grade students are bussed to Dunning, NE, a community 10 miles to the east. It's a great place to live without the bright lights, with a slower pace of life, and great outdoor recreation such as hiking, biking, hunting and fishing.

OUTREACH RESPONSE

If interested in this position please respond by November 30, 2009

Interested applicants, or those desiring further information, should contact:

Jane Darnell, Forests and Grasslands Supervisor, Phone 308-432-0311, email jdarnell@fs.fed.us

Or

Steve Lenzo, Deputy Forests and Grasslands Supervisor, Phone 308-432-0315, email slenzo@fs.fed.us

Or

Mark Lane, Acting Bessey District Ranger, Phone 308-432-0323 or 308-533-2257, email mlane@fs.fed.us

Hard copies of the attached form may be mailed to the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands Supervisors Office, 125 North Main Street, Chadron, NE 69337, attention Jane Darnell.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The vacancy announcement for this position is posted on the U.S. Government's official website for employment opportunities at, www.usajobs.gov under vacancy announcement ADS07-WOJOBS-0029G. This is an Open Continuous vacancy announcement with no closing date. Those that wish to be considered for this position must apply to the vacancy announcement by **December 30, 2009**. The Referral List for this position will be issued to the selecting official on **December 31, 2009**. All applicants who have correctly applied to the announcement on or before December 30, 2009 and are found to be qualified and in the quality group will be referred for consideration.

This vacancy announcement can be viewed by performing a search in USAJOBS using the following search criteria:

Conduct a general search using the job announcement number as the key word then select "Status" Jobs. Select "District Ranger" when it opens select "Apply OnLine".

Selecting this announcement in USAJOBS will take you to AVUE Digital Service where the online application can be prepared and submitted. Applicants must have an active

application. You should choose (at least) the duty location of **Halsey, Nebraska**, the time limit of **Permanent**, and the schedule of **Full Time** to be considered, and also meet basic qualifications and selective factors.

USAJOBS can be accessed at:

<http://www.usajobs.gov/>

AVUE can also be accessed through:

<https://www.avuecentral.com/casting/central/control/index;jsessionid=a13a53e530d6202b83d975b64398b203b94fb07febfd.e38PaN8TbNaTaO0LahaNc34RaO0>

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

**Bessey Ranger District
District Ranger GS-0340-12**

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: _____ USFS _____ BLM _____ OTHER

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

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT: _____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: _____

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: _____

If not a current permanent (career or career-conditional) employee, are you eligible to be rehired under any of the following special authorities?

- _____ Persons with disabilities
- _____ Veterans readjustment
- _____ Disabled veterans with 30% compensable disability
- _____ Veterans employment opportunities act of 1998
- _____ Former peace corps volunteer
- _____ Other (please provide brief description)