**OUTREACH NOTICE**

**Entomologist GS-0414-9/11/12**

**OR**

**Plant Pathologist GS-0434-9/11/12**

**USDA Forest Service**

**Eastern Region State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection**

**St. Paul Field Office**

Reply Due: **February 10, 2023**

This outreach is an early alert to inform potential applicants that USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection (FHP) in the St. Paul Field Office is conducting outreach in anticipation of filling a single permanent, full-time GS-0414 entomology or GS-0434 plant pathologist position, with a target grade of GS-12. The position may be advertised as a ladder position, GS-0414 or GS-0434 9/11/12. Based on candidate interest the position may be located at one of the following duty locations:

* St. Paul Field Office in St. Paul, MN
* Northern Research Station in Columbia, MO
* Shawnee National Forest Supervisor’s office in Harrisburg, IL
* Hoosier National Forest Supervisor’s office in Bedford, IN
* Huron-Manistee National Forest Supervisor’s office in Cadillac, MI

If you are interested in this position, please complete the outreach response form and return it to James Jacobs (james.j.jacobs@usda.gov) by February 10, 2023.

The purpose of this outreach notice is to inform prospective applicants of the potential employment opportunity in the St. Paul Field Office Forest Health Protection group, and to establish the appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the advertisement. The grade levels identified in this outreach may not be those that are eventually advertised for the position. The vacancy announcement(s) will be posted on USAJOBS at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) when the job opens. Individuals that respond to this outreach will be contacted via email with specific vacancy announcement information when it becomes available. **Note: the window for submitting applications may be less than a week.**

## Duties

The specialist in this position will work independently, as well as on a collaborative team of scientists and staff that report to the Forest Health Group Leader in the St. Paul Field Office.

One of the major duties of this position is specializing in damaging insects or diseases relevant to the area covered by the St. Paul Field Office (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana). The individual serves as the point of contact for cooperative forest health programs and offers technical assistance to federal land managers. Some of the activities in this role include reviewing and monitoring forest health grants and cooperative agreements, representing FHP and the Forest Service on state and regional committees, preparing and reviewing environmental analysis documents, coordinating management activities with Federal and State agencies, and participating in local, state, and federal technical and operational meetings. This work requires some overnight travel.

Duties associated with this position also include the following:

* plan, coordinate and conduct insect or pathogen detection, evaluation, prevention and suppression projects for native and non-native insects or diseases,
* provide site-specific technical assistance to land managers concerning forest insects or diseases, including the development of management recommendations and alternatives to reduce impacts,
* organize, plan and conduct forest insect or disease related training programs, presentations, or seminars for various Federal, State, and private land managers,
* plan, organize and conduct pilot projects and field tests to determine the value of new technologies to detect, evaluate or manage forest insects or diseases, and
* coordinate with researchers on new findings and transfer this information to resource managers.

The St. Paul Field Office is one of three State and Private Forestry field offices in the USDA Forest Service Eastern Region and spans a large geographic area with forests varying from northern boreal to southern hardwoods. This field office delivers both forest health and forest management programs (stewardship, watershed, urban & community forestry) to seven Midwestern states. The FHP staff also provide forest health assistance to nine National Forests, many federally recognized Tribal Nations, one National Tallgrass Prairie, and other federal sites managed by the National Park Service, Department of Defense, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Some examples of the major complex forest and shade tree entomology and pathology issues occurring within the St. Paul Field Office are: *Lymantria dispar*, spruce budworm, emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, balsam woolly adelgid, beech bark disease, oak wilt, Dutch elm disease, as well as numerous root diseases and declines.

## Qualifications

The following link connects to a document that provides the basic requirements to qualify for the various grade levels in the professional and scientific series: <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/#url=GS-PROF>

The qualifications for an entomologist or a plant pathologist can be met through a combination of education and experience.

## Contact Information

To express interest in this position please complete the attached outreach response form and send it to James Jacobs (james.j.jacobs@usda.gov), Forest Health Group Leader in the St. Paul Field Office. For more information, please contact James by email or phone at (651)-649-5266.

When this job is announced the vacancy announcement will be posted at www.usajobs.com**. Once the announcement is posted, everyone who responded to this outreach notice will be contacted by email with the announcement number and asked to submit applications within USAJOBS. Response to this outreach notice and submission of the outreach response form is voluntary.**

**OUTREACH RESPONSE**

**Entomologist GS-0414-9/11/12 Or**

**Plant Pathologist GS-0434-9/11/12**

**Eastern Region State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection**

**St. Paul Field Office, St. Paul, MN**

**Respond by February 10, 2023 to james.j.jacobs@usda.gov**

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| --- | --- |
| **NAME:** |  |
| **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** |       |
| **MAILING ADDRESS:** |       |
|  **CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:** |       |
| **TELEPHONE:** |       |

**CURRENT STATUS:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agency:** |   |
| **Type of Appointment:** |  [ ]  Permanent |  [ ]  Temporary |  [ ]  Term |  [ ]  VRA |  [ ]  PWD |  [ ]  Other |
| **Region:** |   |
| **Forest:** |   |
| **District:** |   |
| **Series:** |        |
| **Grade:** |        |
| **Position Title:** |   |
| If you are not currently a permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities? |
| People with Disabilities | [ ]  |
| Veterans Readjustment Authority | [ ]  |
| Disabled Veterans w/30% Compensable Disability | [ ]  |
| Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 | [ ]  |
| Former Peace Corps Volunteer | [ ]  |
| Student Career Experience Program/Pathways | [ ]  |
| Other | [ ]  |

**In the box below, please describe why you will be a quality candidate for the position. ALSO, indicate your preferred duty location(s) from the list above.**