

# Hydrologist

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

## Summary

This position is being concurrently announced under Pathways Recent Graduate program as announcement number 24-NPT-SRM-1315-57-RG. Current federal employees may apply to both announcements. This position may be filled at the GS-05 or GS-07 grade level with promotion potential to the GS-09.

See Position Information section below for additional details on positions being filled through this announcement.

## Overview

Reviewing applications

### Open & closing dates

🕒 01/24/2024 to 02/21/2024

### Salary

\$39,576 - \$63,733 per year

### Pay scale & grade

GS 5 - 7

### Locations

Many vacancies in the following locations:

📍 Double Springs, AL

📍 Montgomery, AL

📍 Ketchikan, AK

📍 Bishop, CA

Additional locations are listed below.

### Remote job

No

### Telework eligible

Yes—as determined by the agency policy.

### Travel Required

Occasional travel - You may be expected to travel for this position.

### Relocation expenses reimbursed

No

### Appointment type

Permanent -

### Work schedule

Full-time -

### Service

Competitive

### Promotion potential

9

### Job family (Series)

## Supervisory status

No

## Security clearance

[Not Required](#)

## Drug test

No

## Position sensitivity and risk

[Non-sensitive \(NS\)/Low Risk](#)

## Trust determination process

[Suitability/Fitness](#)

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## Announcement number

24-NPT-SRM-1315-57-FS-RS

## Control number

772211200

# This job is open to



### [Career transition \(CTAP, ICTAP, RPL\)](#)

Federal employees who meet the definition of a "surplus" or "displaced" employee.



### [Internal to an agency](#)

Current federal employees of this agency.



### [Land & base management](#)

Certain current or former term or temporary federal employees of a land or base management agency.



### [Peace Corps & AmeriCorps Vista](#)



### [Special authorities](#)

Individuals eligible under a special authority not listed above, but defined in the federal hiring regulations.



### [Veterans](#)

## Clarification from the agency

Applications will be accepted only from current permanent Forest Service (FS) employees with competitive status; Land Management eligibles whose last appointment was with the FS; ICTAP/CTAP/RPL eligible candidates; Peace Corps & AmeriCorps VISTA; Public Land Corps; Resource Assistants; and VEOA.

# Duties

- Responsibilities are listed at the highest grade level advertised at the GS-07.
- Participates as a member of interdisciplinary teams working on land management planning, emergency burn rehabilitation, or other Forest projects.
- Prepares and carries out water quality monitoring programs, including preparation of plans, collection and analysis of samples, and interpretation of data.
- Prepares environmental analysis reports for restoration projects being considered for implementation.
- Prepares reports of findings for assigned parts of interpretive studies summarizing the results of hydrologic investigations.
- Collects, analyzes, and interprets watershed data for input to environmental reports.
- Conducts water resource inventories following established procedures to assemble data bases required to support management programs and Forest planning.
- The incumbent makes frequent contacts with other watershed professionals and professionals in other disciplines and occasional contacts with State and Federal agencies, permittees, and cooperators.
- Contacts are made to exchange information with other specialists on interdisciplinary teams, to resolve problems, and to test theories and method concepts against peer groups concepts and procedures.

- Collects and analyzes hydrologic data relating to one or more of the three disciplinary fields (ground-water, surface-water, quality-water), determining apparent reasons for data anomalies, and correlating the factors that affect the information.

# Requirements

## Conditions of Employment

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or National.
- Males born after 12/31/1959 must be Selective Service registered or exempt.
- Subject to satisfactory adjudication of background investigation and/or fingerprint check.
- Successful completion of one year probationary period, unless previously served.
- Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to their financial institution.
- Successfully pass the E-Verify employment verification check. To learn more about E-Verify, including your rights and responsibilities, visit [e-verify.gov](http://e-verify.gov)
- Positions filled from this announcement may be a bargaining or a non-bargaining unit position represented by either NFFE, AFGE or NAGE.

## Qualifications

In order to qualify, you must meet the [eligibility](#) and [qualifications](#)

requirements as defined below by the closing date of the announcement. For more information on the qualifications for this position, visit the [Office of Personnel Management's General Schedule Qualification Standards](#).

You must possess the Basic Requirements identified below to be considered qualified for this position, which includes all positive education requirements if applicable. When using previous work experience to qualify for the position, your resume must clearly detail the appropriate experience requirements. Your application and resume must clearly show that you possess the experience requirements. Transcripts must be provided for qualifications based on education. Provide course descriptions as necessary.

### **Basic Requirement for the GS-1315 Hydrology Series:**

**Degree:** Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree that included a major field of study in physical or natural science, or engineering that included at least 30 semester hours in any combination of courses in hydrology, the physical sciences, geophysics, chemistry, engineering science, soils, mathematics, aquatic biology, atmospheric science, meteorology, geology, oceanography, or the management or conservation of water resources. The course work must have included at least 6 semester hours in calculus (including both differential and integral calculus), and at least 6 semester hours in physics. Calculus and physics, as described above, are requirements for all grade levels.

**OR Combination of education and experience** -- course work as shown above, plus appropriate experience or additional education. Acceptable experience must have included performance of scientific functions related to the study of water resources, based on and requiring a professional knowledge of related sciences and the consistent application of basic scientific principles to the solution of theoretical and practical hydrologic problems. The following is illustrative of acceptable experience: field or laboratory work that would require application of hydrologic theory and related sciences such as geology, geo-chemistry, geophysics, or civil engineering to making observations, taking samples, operating instruments, assembling data from source materials, analyzing and interpreting data, and reporting findings orally and in writing. In some cases, professional scientific experience that is not clearly water resource experience may be acceptable if such experience was preceded by appropriate education in hydrology or by professional hydrology experience.

**In addition to meeting the basic requirement, you must also possess experience and/or directly related education in the amounts listed below.**

### **Specialized Experience Requirement:**

**For the GS-05:** The basic education requirements above are fully qualifying for the GS-5 grade level.

**For the GS-07:** You must have one year specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-05 grade level in the Federal service. Qualifying specialized experience includes two or more of the following:

- Gathered, consolidated, and prepared data for charts, lists of study findings, and statistical tables;
- Operated technical equipment or instruments to take readings and perform routine testing tasks, under the direction of a supervisor;
- Assisted in the preparation of study reports, including assisting in the analysis of data and test findings.

**OR** Successful completion of at least one year (18 semester/27 quarter hours) of graduate education leading toward a Masters degree or higher in a field that is directly related to this position.

**OR** Superior Academic Achievement (go to this site determine if you are eligible: <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/policy/ApplicationOfStds-04.asp>)

. The education must have been obtained in an accredited college or university and, which provides the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work of this position.

**OR** A combination of graduate level education and specialized experience as described above that together meets the qualification requirements for this position. The education must have been obtained in an accredited college or university and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work.

Please note that Superior Academic Achievement can only be applied if you have graduated or completed (or expect to complete within 9 months) all the requirements for a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work.

Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community, student, social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies, knowledge, and skills and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

**TIME IN GRADE REQUIREMENT (GS-07 ONLY):** If you are a current federal employee in the General Schedule (GS) pay plan and applying for a promotion opportunity, you must meet time-in-grade (TIG) requirements of 52 weeks of service at the next lower grade level in the normal line of progression for the position being filled. This requirement must be met by the closing date of this announcement.

## Education

This position has a positive education requirement, as outlined above under basic qualifications. The term positive education requirement refers to an Office of Personnel Management (OPM) determination that the duties of a scientific, technical, or professional position cannot be performed by an individual that does not have the prescribed minimum education. For additional information on the qualification standards for the 1315 series, visit the OPM Qualifications Standard found at: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/1300/hydrology-series-1315/>

### **POSITION INFORMATION:**

This announcement is associated with the 2024 Society for Range Management (SRM) recruitment event. The targeted start date for these positions is Summer 2023. To see where these Forest Service offices are located, click [here](#)

Click each region name to see the different locations within the Forest Service.

Please click [this link](#) to see the Career Map for these positions.

If you have questions regarding duty locations in this announcement please email [sm.fs.pathways@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.pathways@usda.gov). Please include the announcement number and the exact location(s) for which you have questions in your email.

The duty locations listed in this announcement include primary and alternate locations for available positions.

You must select all duty locations for which you wish to be considered; final duty location for each position will be determined at the time of selection.

Work schedules may vary depending on duty location.

The duty locations listed in this announcement include primary and alternate locations for available positions. You must select all duty locations for which you wish to be considered; final duty location for each position will be determined at the time of selection.

Selecting the "Location Negotiable after Selection" option in addition to selecting your preferred specific duty locations, implies your willingness to accept positions to alternative duty locations that may or may not have been indicated in this announcement. Selecting this duty location option may increase your chances of receiving an offer.

## Additional information

Salary wage as shown is for Rest of the U.S. For more information, refer to the [Office of Personnel Management, Salary, and Wages web page](#).

[Career Transition Assistance Plan \(CTAP\), Reemployment Priority List \(RPL\) or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan \(ICTAP\);](#)

To exercise selection priority for this vacancy, CTAP/RPL/ICTAP candidates must meet the basic eligibility requirements and all selective factors. CTAP/ICTAP candidates must be rated and determined to be well qualified (or above) based on an evaluation of the competencies listed in the How You Will Be Evaluated section. When assessed through a score-based category rating method, CTAP/ICTAP applicants must receive a rating of at least 85 out of a possible 100.

Veterans who are preference eligible or who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after three years or more of continuous active service are eligible for consideration under the [Veteran's Employment Opportunity Act \(VEOA\)](#).

[Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act \(LMWFA\)](#)

provides current or former temporary or term employees of federal land management agencies opportunity to compete for permanent competitive service positions. Individuals must have more than 24 months of service without a break between appointments of two or more years. Service must be in the competitive service and have been at a successful level of performance or better. Part-time and intermittent service will be credited only for time actually worked. Non-pay status such as leave without pay is credited for up to six months in a calendar year; anything beyond six months is not credited. Applicants are responsible for providing sufficient information/documentation to determine if the 24 month criteria is met.

For more information on applying under special hiring authorities such as the Resource Assistant Program (RAP) and Public Land Corps (PLC), explore the different [Hiring Paths on the USAJOBS website](#)

**PROMOTION POTENTIAL:** If you are selected for a position with further promotion potential, you will be placed under a career development plan, and may be non-competitively promoted if you successfully complete the requirements and if recommended by management. However, promotion is neither implied or guaranteed.

**TELEWORK:** This position may be eligible to telework up to four days per week, based upon the duties of the position. This position may also be eligible for flexible work arrangements as determined by agency policy and any applicable collective bargaining agreements.

**RECRUITMENT/RELOCATION INCENTIVES:** The Forest Service may use certain incentives and hiring flexibilities, currently offered by the Federal government, to attract highly qualified candidates. Additional information is available at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/pay-and-leave-flexibilities-for-recruitment-and-retention/>

**GOVERNMENT HOUSING:** May be available.

**DAYCARE AVAILABILITY:** Daycare facilities are not available.

We may select from this announcement or any other source to fill one or more vacancies.

## Benefits

A career with the U.S. government provides employees with a comprehensive benefits package. As a federal employee, you and your family will have access to a range of benefits that are designed to make your federal career very rewarding. [Learn more about federal benefits](#)

Eligibility for benefits depends on the type of position you hold and whether your position is full-time, part-time or intermittent. Contact the hiring agency for more information on the specific benefits offered.

## How You Will Be Evaluated

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

You will be evaluated based on your qualifications for this position as evidenced by the experience, education, and training you described in your application package, as well as the responses to the Assessment Questionnaire to determine the degree to which you possess the competencies listed below:

- Hydrology
- Manages and Organizes Information
- Reasoning

Your application, including the online Assessment Questionnaire, will be reviewed to determine if you meet (a) minimum qualification requirements and (b) the resume supports the answers provided to the job-specific questions. Your resume must clearly support your responses to all the questions addressing experience and education relevant to this position.

If you meet the qualification requirements and are determined to be among the best qualified, you will be referred to the hiring manager for consideration. Noncompetitive candidates and applicants under some special hiring authorities must meet minimum qualifications to be referred.

Note: If, after reviewing your resume and/or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you inflated your qualifications and or experience, your rating may be lowered to more accurately reflect the submitted documentation. Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your rating. Providing inaccurate information on Federal documents could be grounds for non-selection or disciplinary action.

To view the application form, visit: <https://apply.usastaffing.gov/ViewQuestionnaire/12184502>

## Required Documents

The following documents are required for your applicant package to be complete. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, illegible fax transmissions, delays in mail service, your system failure, etc. Encrypted documents will not be accepted. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

- **[Resume that includes:](#)**
  - 1) personal information such as name, address, contact information; 2) education; 3) detailed work experience related to this position as described in the major duties including work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment; title, series, grade (if applicable); 4) supervisor's phone number and whether or not the supervisor may be contacted for a reference check; 5) other qualifications.
- If education is required or you are using education to qualify, you must submit: a copy of your college transcripts. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application; however, if you are selected, you will be required to submit official transcripts prior to entering on duty. Education must have been successfully obtained from an accredited school, college or university. If any education was completed at a foreign institute, you must submit with your application evidence that the institute was appropriately accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as equivalent to U.S. education standards. There are [private organizations](#) that specialize in this evaluation and a fee is normally associated with this service. All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.

In addition to the above, you must submit the documents below if you claim the following:

- Current and former Federal employees: 1) Most recent non-award Notification of Personnel Action (SF-50) showing that you are/were in the competitive service, highest grade (or promotion potential) held on a permanent basis, position title, series and grade **AND** 2) Most recent performance appraisal (dated within 18 months) showing the official rating of record, signed by a supervisor, or statement why the performance appraisal is unavailable. Do not submit a performance plan.

- Surplus or displaced employees eligible for CTAP, RPL, or ICTAP priority: proof of eligibility (RIF separation notice, notice of proposed removal for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment to another commuting area, notice of disability annuity termination), SF-50 documenting separation (as applicable), and your most recent SF-50 noting position, grade level, and duty location with your application per 5 CFR 330.
- Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act Eligible Applicants: please review the required documents for this hiring authority on the [Forest Service website](#).
- Veteran Hiring Authorities: VEOA: DD214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty, that shows dates of service and discharge under honorable conditions. If currently on active duty you must submit a certification of expected discharge or release from active-duty service under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification is submitted. Veteran's preference must be verified prior to appointment.
- If claiming 10-point veteran's preference you must provide the DD214 or certification requirements (see above bullet), plus the proof of entitlement of this preference as listed on the SF-15 Application for 10-point Veterans' Preference. The SF-15 should be included but is not required. Failure to submit these documents could result in the determination that there is insufficient documentation to support your claim for 10-point preference.
- Public Land Corps: You must submit a Certificate of Hiring Eligibility FS-1820-0027, dated within two years after completion of Public Land Corps service in the Forest Service.
- Resource Assistants: You must submit a Certificate of Hiring Eligibility, FS-1820-0028, dated within two years after completion of the Forest Service Resource Assistants program and college transcripts.
- If claiming eligibility under a special hiring authority or an interchange agreement with another merit system not listed above, see the requirements for that authority and submit the required supporting documentation. Go to: [USAJOBS Hiring Path for Special Authorities](#) or [Special Hiring Authority](#) for more information.

## How to Apply

Please view [Tips for Applicants](#)

- a guide to the Forest Service application process.

Please read the entire announcement and all instructions before you begin. You must complete this application process and submit all required documents electronically by 11:59p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the closing date of this announcement.

Applying online is highly encouraged. We are available to assist you during business hours (normally 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m., Monday - Friday). If applying online poses a hardship, contact the Agency Contact listed below well before the closing date for an alternate method. All hardship application packages must be complete and submitted no later than noon ET on the closing date of the announcement to be entered into the system prior to its closing.

This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case basis; contact the Agency Contact to request this.

To begin, in USAJOBS click "Apply" and follow the instructions to attach your resume and required documents, complete the assessment questionnaire, and submit your application.

**NOTE:** Please verify that documents you are uploading from USAJOBS transfer into the Agency's staffing system as there is a limitation to the number of documents that can be transferred. However, once in the Agency's staffing system, you will have the opportunity to upload additional documents. Uploaded documents must be less than 5MB and in one of the following document formats: GIF, JPG, JPEG, PNG, RTF, PDF, TXT or Word (DOC or DOCX). Do not upload Adobe Portfolio documents because they are not viewable.

## Agency contact information

### HRM Contact Center

#### Phone

[1-877-372-7248 X2](tel:1-877-372-7248)

#### Email

[HRM\\_Contact\\_Center@usda.gov](mailto:HRM_Contact_Center@usda.gov)

[Learn more about this agency](#)

#### Address

USDA Forest Service HRM Contact Center  
DO NOT MAIL IN APPLICATIONS, SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT.  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
US

## Next steps

Your application will be reviewed to verify that you meet the eligibility and qualification requirements for the position prior to issuing referral lists to the selecting official. If further evaluation or interviews are required, you will be contacted. Log in to your [USAJOBS](#) account to check your application status.

You must choose to turn on email notifications in your USAJOBS profile if you want to receive important email notifications that may impact your applicant experience (e.g. If you start an application and do not submit it prior to the closing date, USAJOBS will send an email reminder that the closing date is approaching and your application is in an

incomplete status).

Multiple positions may be filled from this announcement.

## Fair & Transparent

The Federal hiring process is set up to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) Policy](#)

[Financial suitability](#)

[New employee probationary period](#)

[Privacy Act](#)

[Reasonable accommodation policy](#)

[Selective Service](#)

[Signature and false statements](#)

[Social security number request](#)

## Additional Locations

📍 **Blairsdon, CA**

📍 **Mount Shasta, CA**

📍 **Oroville, CA**

📍 **Sierraville, CA**

📍 **Truckee, CA**

📍 **Delta, CO**

📍 **Walden, CO**

📍 **Grand Marais, MN**

📍 **Tofte, MN**

📍 **Butte, MT**

📍 **Philipsburg, MT**

📍 **Las Vegas, NM**

📍 **Pecos, NM**

📍 **Spearfish, SD**

📍 **Cody, WY**

📍 **Lander, WY**

📍 **Sundance, WY**