

Job Announcement – Biological Sciences Aid (Refuges)

Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Headquartered in Columbia, Missouri

Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge seeks 2 temporary Biological Sciences Aides. Application deadline is Friday, March 20, 2009. Duties of the positions include:

- Inventory and map invasive plant populations on the refuge. Complete field surveys and record locations (with GPS – global positioning system unit) of invasive species found on the refuge. Map plant populations in GIS. Control invasive species through herbicide application and hand pulling.
- Conduct field surveys of small wetlands for amphibians. Conduct field surveys for Hymenoptera and Odonata. Identify specimens collected in the field and preserve and prepare them for display purposes. Enter field data into a wildlife database and GIS.
- Other duties include trail maintenance, posting boundaries, and general refuge maintenance, miscellaneous office tasks.

Big Muddy NFWR, a growing refuge, currently consists of 12,000 acres in 8 units located along the Missouri River, between Kansas City and St. Louis. These positions are stationed in Columbia, Missouri.

Applicants must be able to generally identify plants, be able to learn invasive species, be able to pass the state herbicide applicator exam, and be able to carry a backpack sprayer (approximately 35 lbs.). Those with back or heart problems, allergies, or other medical conditions are advised that this is physically demanding work in the outdoors. Work will include walking several miles a day, sometimes with a backpack sprayer. A medical surveillance physical will be required to ensure that personnel are medically fit to accomplish their assigned tasks.

Pay scale is GS-3, (about \$11.70 per hour) or GS-4 (about \$13.00 per hour) dependant upon the applicant's qualifications and the refuge budget. Applicant must be 18 years or older, and have a valid Driver's License. Positions start mid-May and end in mid-August. If convenient and desirable to both parties, students may continue to work part-time during the school year and full-time during semester breaks. Applicants must meet criteria for Service's Student Temporary Experience Program; therefore, you must be a current student to apply. Students graduating in May, without an August commitment to a graduate school, are not eligible. Information about the STEP program can be found at website <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/careers/step>.

Application deadline is Friday, March 20, 2009. To apply, send 1) a resume' which lists 3 reference contacts, 2) your college transcripts, to: Wedge Watkins, Big Muddy NFWR, 4200 New Haven Road, Columbia, MO 65201. You must be enrolled as a student in the fall of 2009 to be eligible for employment in the Student Temporary Experience Program (STEP). Evidence of enrollment must be presented prior to employment.

For more information, contact Wedge Watkins, Refuge Biologist, at 573-441-2788, 800-611-1826 (extension 4) or e-mail Wedge_Watkins@fws.gov. Information about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be found at website <http://www.fws.gov>. Big Muddy NFWR website is <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/BigMuddy/>.