

# NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

*Bankhead, Talladega, Tuskegee, Conecuh, and the Supervisor's Office*  
*"Alabama's Largest Natural Treasure"*

## **Vacancy Announcement**

USDA Forest Service, Southern Region  
**National Forests in Alabama**  
**Conecuh Ranger District**

### **Wildlife Biologist**

GS-486-11

Vacancy Numbers:

Merit: 14-0801-17262G-DB

Demo: 14-0801-17262DP-DB

Open Date: March 25, 2014

Close Date: April 7, 2014

## **THE POSITION**

The National Forests in Alabama, Conecuh Ranger District, is advertising to fill a District Wildlife Biologist position (GS-486-11). The incumbent is responsible for providing leadership and direction to the district's fisheries and wildlife management program. The duty station for the Conecuh Ranger District is Andalusia, Alabama.

The Wildlife Biologist is a permanent full-time position. It is a primary staff position that reports to the District Ranger. Duties of the position include:

- Planning, organizing, and implementing wildlife habitat management programs, with emphasis on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity through restoration of native ecological communities, especially upland longleaf pine forest and associated ephemeral ponds, bogs, and other wetlands.
- Leading efforts to recover the red-cockaded woodpecker on the Conecuh National Forest.
- Coordinating with a variety of partners to reintroduce native elements of flora and fauna, including the threatened indigo snake.
- Coordinating with Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries to enhance hunting and fishing opportunities on the unit.
- Implementing measures to control non-native invasive species, including feral hogs.

- Developing the annual program of work and project work plans, determining budgeting and staffing needs necessary to accomplish fish and wildlife program goals and targets.
- Participating on interdisciplinary teams to plan and evaluate effects of Forest Service or non-Forest Service projects and activities on national forest resources.
- Documenting analysis of effects of management activities on fish, wildlife, and plants in environmental assessments.
- Preparing or reviewing biological evaluations for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species; consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on effects to these species.
- Preparing and delivering conservation education programs and materials to adults and children.
- Supervising one or more technicians in wildlife management work.

## **THE FOREST**

The Conecuh National Forest covers 84,000 acres in the coastal plain of South Alabama. We are located in “the heart of longleaf country” as part of a larger landscape of partner properties with more than a million acres dedicated to restoration of longleaf pine associated ecosystems. Longleaf pine ecosystem restoration is the mission that drives our management activities. These activities include prescribe burning 30,000 acres annually, harvesting 12,000 ccf of timber per year to restore longleaf pine to appropriate sites, recovery of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, reintroduction of the threatened indigo snake, and providing a variety of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities. Hunting of deer, turkey, and quail are especially popular recreational activities. Natural sinkhole ponds, pitcher plant bogs, and other wetlands are signature natural communities on the Conecuh. These habitats support the highest diversity of reptiles and amphibians of any U.S. national forest.

The District is active in supporting conservation education programs and ecological research. Our list of partners is growing, and includes Auburn University’s Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, the Covington County Forestry Committee, The Longleaf Alliance, and the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP).

District employees represent a small, integrated, mission-driven team with very strong traditions of innovation, partnerships, and accomplishment. We pride ourselves in being a small district with a big vision.

## **THE COMMUNITY**

Andalusia has a small town atmosphere with a generous complement of Southern hospitality and old-fashioned values of welcoming neighbors and strangers alike. Most goods and services are readily available. Population is around 10,000 people. Andalusia is located in South Alabama about 20 miles north of the Florida state line, 1 1/2 hours from the Forest Supervisor’s office in Montgomery, and less than 1 1/2 hours from Gulf Coast beaches. Timber and agriculture are mainstays of the area. Other manufacturing includes carpet manufacturing.

The school system in Andalusia and surrounding Covington County is considered one of the best in the state. The community has full service hospital/health care services as well as abundant churches of most denominations. Recreation resources include developed camping on the national forest, reservoirs and ponds for boating and fishing, and lengthy hunting seasons with liberal bag limits.

There is no government housing available, but housing in the community is readily available for both rental and purchase. Real estate prices range from 80's and up for average family dwellings. Colleges and universities in the area include Troy University located approximately one hour from Andalusia, Lurleen B. Wallace State Community College in Andalusia, and MacArthur State Technical College located in Opp, approximately 20 minutes east.

## **CONTACT**

To obtain more information on this opportunity, contact Tim Mersmann, District Ranger, at (334) 222-2555 (ext. 101) or [tmersmann@fs.fed.us](mailto:tmersmann@fs.fed.us).