STATUS VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT NO: NRCS-MO-03-037

OPENING DATE: August 28, 2003
CLOSING DATE: September 29, 2003
BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS (4:30 pm)

SALARY RANGE: $47,110-61,248

Relocation expenses are authorized for this position

WHO MAY APPLY:

Government Wide: Applications will be accepted from current Federal employees seeking a career or career conditional appointment, former Federal employees with reinstatement eligibility, Veterans Employment Opportunities Act (VEOA) eligibles and permanent Farm Service Agency County Committee members (Career Conditional – 1 yr probationary period). Applications will also be accepted from U.S. citizens eligible for consideration under Special Hiring Authorities (i.e. VRA, Peace Corps, Vista, Handicapped, 30% Disabled Veteran). See “Other Information” for more details.

All “Non-Status” applicants (Applicants with no prior Federal civilian experience) must apply under vacancy announcement number NRCS-MO-03-O37 which can be found at www.usajobs.opm.gov

MAJOR DUTIES:

This position is located on the Water Resources Staff under the supervision of the Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources. The incumbent will work closely with other staff members to perform economic analysis related to watershed planning. Conducts investigations needed to appraise floodwater, erosion, and sediment damages to agricultural lands and its products, urban and rural developments and to develop estimates of benefits that accrue from the reduction of these damages. Provides estimates of benefits that may accrue from establishment of recreational areas within the specified areas. Collects and analyzes economic data by interviewing farm operators and groups. Conducts economic studies for evaluation of water management features such as drainage, irrigation, recreation, fish and wildlife improvement, and municipal or industrial, rural, domestic, and livestock water storage. Assists in determining program cost-allocation for multiple purpose structures and cost sharing. Collaborates with other federal, state and local agencies and individuals to secure data for economic studies, analyzes those data to adaptability and use in the studies being made. Evaluates the economic feasibility of proposed projects to ensure compliance with the overall plan and what is required by RUS.665 as amended. Works closely with other staff and sponsors to analyze and study economic benefits and damages for watershed planning.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

Candidates must meet the basic eligibility requirements for the GS-110 series as set forth in the Qualification Standards for GS Positions. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in economics that included at least 12 semester hours in economics and 3 semester hours in statistics, accounting, or calculus. OR a combination of education and experience with courses equivalent to a major in economics plus appropriate professional experience performing work involving economics. Candidates must have at least one year specialized experience at the next lower grade level. Substitution of education for experience: A master’s degree or equivalent in economics is qualifying for the GS-9 level. A PhD or equivalent is qualifying for the GS-11 level. At the GS-12 level, candidates must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-11 level. No substitution of education is allowed. Applicants can view the full qualification standards at http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/Qualifications/SEC-18V/BIO%20SEC%2010%20HTM and http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/Qualifications/SEC-V/MEC%20 19%20HTM

Specialized Experience: Experience in which the candidate performed or assisted with economic studies concerning the planning and evaluation of land treatment and water management phases of water and land resource planning. Performed or assisted with investigations used in computing annual amounts of erosion damages, value of floodwater and
Vacancy Announcement NCPS-MO-HU13-037

sediment damages, and the monetary benefits accruing from the reduction of these damages due to the application of conservation measures.

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED (KSA's):
The following knowledges, skills and abilities (KSAs) are required for this job. For each KSA, you must prepare a two-page or less written statement that explains how you meet the specific KSA. KSA Responses are limited to two (2) pages per KSA.

Note: Non-competitive candidates (Lateral Transfers) are not required to submit responses to the KSA's.

A. Knowledge of economic principles, theories, and concepts in order to conduct studies, surveys and analyses to determine economic feasibility of proposed works of improvement in various water basins and watersheds.

B. Knowledge of agricultural and natural resource concepts, principles, and disciplines, including local, state and federal water, soil, and wetland programs policies and procedures (i.e., PL-566) in order to collect, analyze and interpret economic data and apply them to agency projects and programs.

C. Ability to interpret economic data, identify and analyze problems, generate alternatives, and make recommendations in order to ensure efficient processes and quality products.

D. Ability to communicate with others in order to collect information, express ideas and facts, make effective presentations, exchange ideas, and prepare reports, evaluations, and other documents.

E. Ability to utilize computer software for quantitative analysis (databases, online information resources, basic programming, etc.) in order to accomplish economic evaluations and produce reports and data outputs as requested.

BASIS OF RATING:
Your rating will be based on an evaluation of your experience and education as it relates to the qualification requirements and the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) listed. You should provide detailed evidence of your possession of the KSA's in your application as well as in your KSA responses with clear concise examples that include level of accomplishment, and extent of responsibility.

HOW TO APPLY:
Applicants who wish to be considered must apply in writing to the address listed in this announcement, by submitting the following forms and information:

- A current, dated and signed SF-171 (Application for Federal Employment), OR resume.
- OR any other form of application, including experience, training, awards, or background security clearance.
- Instructions in preparing a Federal resume are available at the site: http://www.usajobs.gov/_sel/rel/formstemplatePage0010.pdf. This is the same information that is identified on the OF-612 application form, which can be found at http://www.usajobs.gov/ sel/rel/formstemplatePage0011.html. You don’t need to send both an OF-612 application form and a resume.
- A current performance plan (Form SF-4440 if USDA employee).
- OPM Form 1368, Background Survey Questionnaire 7b-2 (Optional).
- Written response to each of the knowledges, skills, and abilities (KSAs) identified in this vacancy announcement, addressing specific evidence as to how knowledge, skill, or ability was obtained.
- Applicants applying for a position in a series different from the one in which they are currently serving, must provide evidence (e.g., college transcripts) to support their basic qualifications.
- List (SF-505) (Notification of Personnel Action) documenting current salary, grade, and type of appointment.

Submit Your Application Package to:
By Mail: USDA ARCS
Human Resources Office
Purdue Center, Suite 250
501 Business Loop 70W
Columbus, MO 65003
Attn: Audrey Aan

You will be contacted regarding the status of your application after the closing date of the announcement. Selections normally take approximately four to six weeks.

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Contact Person for Additional Information: Name: Aubrey Ash  Phone: (573) 816-0604

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:
- If you are a male over age 18 who was born after December 31, 1959, you must have registered with the Selective Service System (or have an exemption) to be eligible for Federal employment.
- You must be a United States Citizen or National (resident of American Samoa and Swains Islands) to be considered for this position.
- If you are selected for this position, you are a non-status candidate (i.e., special hiring authority eligible). You must pass a pre-employment medical examination.

OTHER INFORMATION:
Information on Special Hiring Authorities - If you are any of the following apply to you, please refer to the websites provided for additional documentation that may be required:
- A person with a severe physical handicap (http://www.opm.gov/disability.html), or
- A former Peace Corps or VISTA Volunteer.

You must tell us in your application under which of these special hiring authorities you wish to be considered. If you want to be considered under a special hiring authority, as well as the regular competitive process, you must submit two complete applications and request the dual consideration. When only one application is received from a special hiring authority eligible, it will be considered under the appropriate special hiring authority only. You must submit proof of your eligibility with your application or you will not be considered under a special hiring authority. The VRA hiring authority is limited to positions at the GS-11 level and below.

NRCRS provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify us. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

Information on CTAP/ICTAP - Individuals who have special priority selection eligibility under the Agency Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) must be well qualified for the position to receive consideration for special priority selection. For CTAP and ICTAP, well-qualified means meets the qualification standard and is eligible requirements for the position, meets minimum education and experience requirements, meets all selective factors where applicable, and is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry. Federal employees seeking CTAP/ICTAP eligibility must submit proof that they meet the requirements of 5 CFR 330.605 (a) for CTAP and 5 CFR 330.704 for ICTAP. This includes proof of eligibility, a copy of their most recent Performance Rating, and a copy of their most recent SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action) noting current position, grade level, and duty location. Please annotate your application to reflect that you are applying as a CTAP or ICTAP eligible.

What other important things do you need to know about submitting a successful application package?
- Do not send position descriptions, manuscripts, personal endorsements, training certificates, publications, work samples, or any other unsolicited material. They will be discarded. References to these items may be made in your application, resume, or KSA responses.
- Do not submit your application materials in a notebook, binder, or other cumbersome covering. It will be discarded. Cover letters are acceptable.
- You cannot use postage-paid government envelopes, messenger envelopes, federal stamps, and federal postage meters to file your applications. It is a violation of U.S. office regulations. Applicants received directly or indirectly through these means will not be considered.
- Application packages will not be returned to you.
- If you have not been notified of the United States position of the United States position that you are applying for, you must prove that it has been satisfactorily evaluated by the education achieved in accredited United States colleges and universities. Submit documentation of your education to a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign educational credentials for enrollment.

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Vacancy Announcement: NRCS-MO-03-017

(www.us-govoffices/DFE/selection/jobposting.htm). The processing of this vacancy announcement will not be delayed pending receipt of your evaluation materials.

A professional application gives a positive impression to hiring managers. It is recommended that you make the effort to assure your application is neat, legible, error free, easy to read, and concise.