



WORKING FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Entomologist



Do you have an interest in ecology? Are you intrigued by the effects of insects in forest or rangeland environments? Does working for a public land management agency with other professionals who share your interest motivate you? If so, a career as an entomologist with the Forest Service may interest you.

The Work Environment

From coastal, high plateau and arctic forest to grasslands, prairies and deserts, Forest Service entomologists are involved in land management activities spanning 50 states, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. From basic research to applied science, Forest Service entomologists play an important role in the management of Federal, State, and even private forest lands in the United States.

Operating on the Job

Forest health and the maintenance of ecosystems are important issues facing public land managers. Insects play a significant role on ecosystem functions and habitat succession, both of which influence our land management activities. Forest Service entomologists work with foresters, botanists, ecologists, plant pathologists, silviculturists, other forest management and natural resource specialists to provide for healthy forests and rangelands. In addition, they work in partnership with state officials, pest and weed control boards, and numerous other groups and individuals on critical entomological issues. Entomologists with the Forest Service are often involved in:

- Using insects and other naturally occurring biological agents to combat other insects, noxious weeds and forest diseases
- Monitoring the extent of defoliation and mortality caused by insects
- Participating in periodic reviews and revisions of forest plans, providing qualitative and quantitative estimates of insect impacts and prognosis modeling
- Providing recommendations and training on timber harvesting and other land management activities
- Developing forest and rangeland management prescriptions that employ a variety of techniques to contend with harmful

insects

- Providing technical assistance in all aspects of pest management to State and private groups and to individuals who manage the non-federal forested land throughout the country

Career Paths and Requirements

Entomologists are hired at many different grade levels. College graduates may be hired at the GS-5 or GS-7 grade level. They spend their first year or two in training and development, and then may be promoted to the GS-9 grade level. Entomologists with advanced degrees and experience may be hired at higher grade levels, especially to meet research program needs. To start a career as an entomologist in the Forest Service, you must meet one of the following requirements:

- Have a degree in entomology or a related discipline of the biological or physical sciences that includes s at least 16 semester hours in entomology
- Or
- A combination of education and experience equivalent to a major that includes s course work as shown above, plus appropriate experience or additional education

Applicants with major fields of study in biology, zoology, or invertebrate zoology may fully meet the basic education requirements if their academic preparation included substantive instruction (including appropriate laboratory and field work) in basic general entomology, taxonomy, physiology, ecology, general and organic chemistry, general physics, and mathematics or statistics that provided some training in the analysis of variables.



These qualification requirements have been summarized for convenience. Full details are available at www.USAJobs.gov or the www.opm.gov subject index under “Qualifications.”

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