The Hoosier National Forest will soon be filling one vacancy for a permanent full-time biological science technician, GS-0404-06/07. The duty station is located at the Hoosier National Forest Tell City Ranger District office in Tell City, Indiana. For additional details on the position, please call Chris Thornton, Ecosystems Program Manager at (812) 547-9235. Once advertised, applicants will need to apply through the USA JOBS process and select Tell City, Indiana as the desired duty location.

This Outreach Notice will help determine the potential applicant pool for the position and establish the appropriate recruitment method for the job advertisement. Informed by the results of this outreach, the position will be announced for applicants from either current government employees (MERIT) or the general public (DEMO). If you are interested in the position please complete the attached Outreach Response Form and return it to Chris Thornton, at christopher.thornton@usda.gov no later than March 31, 2020.

*All respondents will be notified via email when the vacancy announcement becomes available. There will be a separate process to apply for the position.*

**Position Description and Responsibilities:**

The technician works independently or with Forest Service specialists, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and non-government partners to manage wildlife habitat on the National Forest. Work includes aquatic and terrestrial habitat assessments, surveys to monitor treatments and wildlife populations, and collection of data for the development of wildlife management plans and environmental analyses. Data are collected, compiled and summarized on wildlife species, vegetation, and habitat. As required, data are entered into databases and mapping platforms. Additional duties include non-native invasive species control work, habitat improvement work, and administering contracts as a government representative.

Using effective communication skills, the technician provides detailed reports on work methods, data collected and project evaluation; determines need and recommends equipment for the project at hand and assures its
operational status and availability; and participates with others in planning work by contributing productive ideas on uses of materials and methods.

This position will occasionally lead work crews or volunteers. It is supervised by the Supervisory Wildlife Biologist.

**Description of the Forest:**
The Hoosier National Forest encompasses nearly 204,000 acres in South Central Indiana stretching south from Bloomington to the Ohio River and is located within a drive of two hours or less from Cincinnati, Ohio; Evansville and Indianapolis, Indiana; and Louisville, Kentucky. Two ranger districts include the Brownstown District in Bedford, Indiana and the Tell City District in Tell City, Indiana.

The Hoosier National Forest sits in the unglaciated hills of Southern Indiana. The Forest provides a range of opportunities and resources for people to enjoy. The many recreation opportunities including camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, mountain bike riding, and viewing scenery. The only congressionally designated wilderness in Indiana, the 13,000 acre Charles C. Deam Wilderness provides opportunities for users desiring higher levels of solitude. In addition the Forest has over 265 miles of trails for hiking, biking, or horseback riding.

The Hoosier works to provide integrated resource management on the complex mosaic that make up National Forest System Lands in Indiana. Only 31% of the land within the Forest Boundary is National Forest System land, this scattered ownership pattern adds a complexity to the management of this valued natural resource. Forest managers are responsible for protection of some very unique resources. The Hoosier is located in an area rich in caves and karst features. These underground features are largely unknown to most Forest visitors but are home to many species that are specific to these habitats. The Hoosier has five endangered or threatened species: the fanshell and rough pigtoe mussels reside in rivers to the south; the gray, Indiana and northern long-eared bats and their habitat occur throughout the Forest. The wildlife program on the Forest focuses on management to provide habitat for these species as well as many others that occur throughout the area.

The Forest works to maintain and restore sustainable ecosystems. The vegetation management on the forest focuses on promoting native oak and hickory regeneration, reducing nonnative pine planted to restore over farmed lands, and reducing nonnative invasive plant and animal species.

The Hoosier National Forest organization is non-traditional with an emphasis on placing resource specialists closer to the ground. Certain Forest-level staff functions that traditionally reside in a Supervisor’s Office work in a team environment and serve as District-level program managers. This serves to broaden District interdisciplinary teams and improve technology transfer, customer service, and quality of stewardship. We view the Districts as the backbone of the Forest Service organization and emphasize customer service at that level. Additional information about the Forest may be found at [http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier).

**Tell City, IN.**
The Hoosier National Forest Tell City Ranger District Office is located in Tell City and Perry County. Tell City is located on the banks of the Ohio River and was founded in 1858 by the Swiss Colonization Society for Swiss and German immigrants. Settlement occurred early due to the city’s proximity to the Ohio River. Community development was directly related to river travel. The city recognizes its Swiss and German heritage each August at the annual Schweizer Fest. Perry County has a population of approximately 18,900 people, with an estimated 7,500 in Tell City. The area observes central time zone.
Major industries in the area include lumbering, manufacturing, and farming, additional area employers include ThyssenKrupp Waupaca, Mulzer Crushed Stone, Accent Marketing Services, ATTC Manufacturing, and Branchville Correctional Facility.

Perry County has 3 public elementary schools (1 in Tell City); 3 junior –senior high schools (7-12) (1 in Tell City). In addition there are two private schools located in the county. Perry County also boasts a state community college campus (Ivy Tech). Perry County Hospital is located between the communities of Tell City and Cannelton. Housing in Perry County is very affordable. Median home values in Tell City are around $87,000.

Perry County’s rolling hills along the Ohio River provide amazing views of natural beauty, the area is well suited to outdoor recreation pursuits. Several boat ramps on the Ohio River provide access for boating and fishing. Five man-made lakes in Perry County offer water-based recreation opportunities.

Find more information about the Tell City area by visiting http://www.perrycountyindiana.org.

**Climate:**
The temperature in southern Indiana varies north to south. Although Indiana sometimes has temperatures below zero during the winter, the average temperatures in January range between 17°F and 35°F. Rainfall is distributed evenly throughout the year. The average annual precipitation statewide is 40 in, ranging from about 35 in (89 cm) near Lake Michigan to 45 inches along the Ohio River; from, 1981 - 2010, Indianapolis had an average of 42 inches annually. The annual snowfall averages about 26 inches.

**Places of Worship:**
Churches representing all major denominations; as well as Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and other places of worship; can be found in communities across the area.

**Economy:**
Real estate in the area is moderately priced, as are utilities. Tourism is a developing economic force in the area. In recent years, several wineries and craft breweries have opened, adding to the tourism opportunities in the region.

**Healthcare:**
Healthcare facilities serving the area include full facility IU Health Bedford Hospital and St. Vincent Dunn Hospital, in Bedford, along with full service hospitals and medical practices in Bloomington. Services at these hospitals include cardiac units, oncology and neonatal units. Other hospitals providing care in the general area of the Hoosier include Perry County Memorial in Tell City, Indiana; Deaconess in Evansville, Indiana; and University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. All the hospitals provide 24-hour emergency room physician coverage and specialists.

**Recreational and Cultural Activities:**
The region has many opportunities for outdoor activities as well as small town festivals and fairs. In addition there is easy access to larger cities including Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Nashville, Tennessee; and St. Louis, Missouri.
Non-Discrimination Statement
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
Please complete your response by **March 31, 2020**. Responses may be sent via email, USPS, or fax.

**E-mail:** christopher.thornton@usda.gov  
**Fax:** (812) 547-6144

**Mail:** Chris Thornton  
Hoosier National Forest  
248 15th Street  
Tell City, IN  47586

This Outreach is for the following position:
- **Biological Science Technician, GS 0404-06/07, Permanent Full-time Position**  
- **Region 9, Hoosier National Forest, Tell City, Indiana**

Name: _______________________________ Date: ____________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________ Email address: __________________________

Are you currently a Federal Employee?  Yes  No

If YES, CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT: __________________________

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: ______________________________________

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: _________________________________________

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: _____USFS  _____BLM  _____OTHER: _____

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IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE, ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AUTHORITIES:
- _____PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
- _____VETERANS RECRUITMENT ACT
- _____DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
- _____VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
- _____FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
- _____STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
- _____OTHER __________________________

How did you learn of this opportunity: ______________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Thank you for your interest in this position.