



Preannouncement **OUTREACH NOTICE**

Biological Science Technician, GS-0404-05/06/07 PFT

Tongass National Forest

Hoonah Ranger District

Position Title: Biological Science Technician, GS-0404-05/06/07

Tour of Duty: Permanent full time.

Duty Station: Hoonah, Alaska

The Tongass National Forest, Hoonah Ranger District is seeking interested candidates for a permanent full time Biological Science Technician (GS-0404-05/06/07) position to be located in Hoonah, Alaska. For additional information on this position or location information, please contact Chad VanOrmer at 907-789-6202, or cvanormer@fs.fed.us.

To respond to this outreach please fill out the form at the end of this document and submit to Chad VanOrmer at cvanormer@fs.fed.us, by close of business December 28, 2017.

Description of Duties:

This position is located in Hoonah, Alaska and works as part of a small interdisciplinary District team. The incumbent is supervised by the District Recreation & Fish, Wildlife, Subsistence Staff Officer.

The duties for this position are varied, however, the primary responsibilities are to support the protection, management, and improvement of wildlife, fish and subsistence resources within the framework of multiple-use management of forest lands. The incumbent will be a member of a team that strives to integrate an interdisciplinary program of work and other duties assigned may include ecosystem restoration, conservation education, timber, recreation and associated infrastructure such as roads, fleet, and facilities.

The position is expected to work collaboratively with a variety of local and regional partners, permittees and contractors to execute annual accomplishments that support long-term resource management goals. Examples of work assignments include: field data gathering, database management, safety mentoring, technical report writing, permit preparation, fishpass and other facility operations & maintenance, fleet (ATV, boat, vehicle) operations, and supports development of contracts, agreements, and environmental analyses.

We are seeking an individual who has:

- Good oral and written communication skills for the public and Forest Service employees.
- Quality leadership and team building skills.
- A safe and professional working attitude, and
- Someone who creates a work environment that respects, appreciates, and accepts the contributions and perspectives of all employees.

NOTE: As a field going position working in brown or black bear habitat, this position is required to be firearm certified for personal and/or crew safety. Executive Order 12564 requires employees designated to carry a firearm to be subject to random drug testing. This position will be subject to random drug testing and will be placed in the applicant testing pool.

Incumbent must become certified to operate power boats and off highway vehicles (OHVs) within two years of appointment to position. A valid State driver's license is required to operate a variety of motor vehicles.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Persons interested in this position must meet the qualification requirements for the GS-0404 series that are covered by the Biological Science Technician position standards. The OPM Qualification Standards Handbook is available for review at any federal personnel office or online at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/index.htm>.

- *Work requires performing demanding fieldwork in mountainous terrain and inclement weather. The position also requires a valid state driver's license.*

Qualifications and time-in grade requirements must be met within 60 calendar days of the closing date of the announcement.

For more information on the position:

Contact Person(s): Chad VanOrmer, District Ranger

Office: 907-789-6202

Email: cvanormer@fs.fed.us

Housing

The District has housing options (bunkhouse, apartments, duplex) that may be available for rent.

Background

The Hoonah Ranger District encompasses the northern half of Chichagof Island. The island is one of many that make up the Alexander Archipelago, a series of islands that comprise southeast Alaska and the Tongass National Forest. The District covers 663,329 acres and has a diverse landscape. The landforms consist of rounded mountain tops, mountain summits, lowlands and valley floor and deep glacial cut fjords. The Hoonah Ranger District office is located on the shores of Port Fredrick in the Alaska Native Tlingit community of Hoonah; the town's population is approximately 760 and is located approximately 40 air miles west of Juneau and 80 air miles north of Sitka. Huna, a Tlingit tribe, have lived in the Glacier Bay/Icy Strait area for thousands of years. In 1883 the first store was built and since then an established community has existed on the east shore of Port Fredrick. Originally, the community was known as Huna, which in Tlingit means **“the place where the north wind doesn't blow”**. In 1901 when the Post Office opened the name changed to Hoonah, which in Tlingit means **“village by the cliff”**. The town's Culture Center exhibits portray much of the Tlingit history of Hoonah.



The community of Hoonah is connected to a large portion of the District by a 180 mile road system that serves as important access to recreation, tourism, timber and subsistence resources. A community accessible road system is unique in most of SE Alaska, making Hoonah a popular spot for recreationists. The road system gives access to much of the northeastern Chichagof Island and provides a chance to enjoy the beauty and bounty of nature. There are numerous freshwater fishing opportunities for four species of pacific salmon, char, and trout. Chichagof Island has a large abundance and a wide variety of wild berries; locals spend a good portion of the summer months picking them. The best picking spots are frequently shared with the bears. There is abundant wildlife viewing opportunities everywhere, from whale watching (even from shore in downtown Hoonah), bird watching, and viewing the ever abundant brown bears. Chichagof Island contains one of the highest densities of brown bear in all of North America, and possibly the world. The island only has two large terrestrial mammals, the brown bear and the Sitka black tailed deer.

In the surrounding waters of Port Fredrick and Icy Strait, with their numerous bays and inlets, you will find large numbers of salmon, herring, halibut, rockfish, king crab, tanner crab, Dungeness crab, and numerous clams and shrimp. Sport-fishing opportunities are endless. These highly rich waters bring in numerous humpback whales, several types of porpoise, sea otter, seals, sea lions, and the ever popular orcas. All of these marine mammals can be seen from the shores of Hoonah throughout the summer months and on occasion year round.



Shopping and Services

Local retail stores include two very small grocery stores, a hardware store, a small marine & outdoor supplies store, and two small gas pumps. Since the construction of a new large dock for cruise ships, the tourist season between May and September has brought more tourists to the town offering more seasonal shopping/dining opportunities. There are several restaurants ranging from a small deli/coffee/restaurant, a small carry-out food/coffee house, a brewery, and a large restaurant/bar (with taxi service). Some restaurants and businesses are open year around, while others close seasonally. Various churches are active such as Russian Orthodox Assembly of God, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and United Pentecostal Church. There is satellite TV and

cell phone carriers in Hoonah. The Public School includes K–12 with a total enrollment of approx. 110 students. The public library is shared with the school. Other services available are auto/tire repair, and several ATM's but no bank. A Physician's Assistant and Health Aides at the Hoonah Health Center provide health services.

Traveling to Hoonah

Although there are approximately 180 miles of road on the island, they do not connect to the other three smaller communities on the island, Tenakee Springs, Elfin Cove, and Pelican. Access to Hoonah is commonly done from the closest city on the mainland, Juneau. With a population of approx. 30,000, most Hoonah people go to Juneau for extensive shopping, medical, and technical/mechanical needs. Modes of transportation to and from Hoonah include charter aircraft or boat. Aircraft is the most regular and fastest mode of transportation to the island. There are regularly scheduled daily charter flights to/from Juneau and Sitka, pending weather. The landing strip is appropriate only for propeller aircraft due to length and surface. Flight times from Juneau are very short, ~20 minutes. Costs per flight average \$90.00 one way from Hoonah to Juneau (closest major city). Hoonah is also accessed by ferry capable of transporting vehicles via the Alaska Marine Highway System. Ferries take approximately 3.5 hours one way between Hoonah and Juneau and make the trip roughly twice per week. Note that on occasion some trips can make stops along the way which may increase the travel time considerably. If you're in a hurry it is good to take a close look at the ferry schedule to verify where it is heading. Ferry rates are roughly \$39.00 one way per person, and about \$100 one way for an average sized vehicle. Tickets, prices, and schedules are available at the following link: <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/index.shtml>.

Thank you for your interest in this position!

**OUTREACH NOTICE FORM
Tongass National Forest
Hoonah Ranger District
Hoonah, Alaska**

Title: Biological Science Technician GS-0404-05/06/07

Tour of Duty: Permanent, full time.

Duty Station: Hoonah, Alaska

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

City/State: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Are you currently a Federal employee: **YES** _____ **NO** _____

If yes:

Current title/series/grade: _____

Current duty station location: _____

Type of appointment you qualify for (ex: Career, Career-Conditional, Excepted-ANILCA, Excepted VRA, etc.)

Briefly describe why you will be a quality candidate for this position (enter text below, and feel free to continue to the next page if needed):