Eastern Region State & Private Forestry Forest Health Protection (FHP) may soon advertise for an Entomologist, GS-0434/0414-9/11. This position serves on the FHP Morgantown Field Office team that provides technical advice, assistance, and guidance on forest health issues to Federal, State, private and tribal land managers in the Mid-Atlantic sub-region. This position is eligible for limited telework and other flexible work arrangements. However, it is not a virtual position and the duty station will be the Morgantown Field Office, Morgantown, West Virginia. This is a permanent-full-time to be offered as a 9/11 career ladder position.

PLEASE NOTE: The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for these positions and to establish the appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the advertisement (e.g., target grade and service-wide, region-wide, government-wide, Pathways Recent Graduate, or Demo). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination. Outreach will continue until the position is advertised on USAjobs, but replies prior to **February 4, 2022** are most useful.

**ABOUT THE POSITION**
This position reports to the Forest Health Group Leader who is stationed at the Morgantown Field Office in Morgantown WV. The incumbent is responsible for independently performing a variety of complex and recurring duties to support the FHP program. The position is nonsupervisory and field work will require some physical exertion. This can occur in forest environments where terrain is often uneven, steep, rocky, and covered with thick vegetation, dead and downed trees and where there is exposure to extremes of weather and temperature.
Major Abilities and Duties at the GS-11 level:

- This position plans, coordinates, and conducts insect detection surveys and biological evaluations on Federal, State, and private lands. Analyzes data and prepares complete and comprehensive reports. Makes recommendations to resource managers on pest management methods.

- The incumbent participates in complex insect prevention and suppression projects where the conduct of the projects can reduce the adverse effects of a pest.

- Makes recommendations on proven reforestation, harvesting, and silvicultural practices which will reduce insect losses.

- Directs the activities of temporarily assigned entomologists and technicians during field assignments in detection, prevention, evaluation, and suppression activities. Promotes safety when making work assignments.

- Participates in conducting training of Federal, State, and private land managers, as well as subordinates, in the identification of injurious forest insects, the damage they cause, methods and concepts of biological evaluations, and the fundamentals of preventing losses by sound forest management practices.

- Plans, organizes, and conducts pilot projects and field tests to determine the value of new or improved materials, strategies, or techniques for operational use in insect survey, evaluation, or control.

- The position coordinates with Research on new findings applicable to pest management and, through the technology transfer process, makes them available to other specialists and resource managers.


THE DUTY STATION
The Morgantown Field Office of State and Private Forestry is co-located with the Northern Research Station Morgantown Field Site at 180 Canfield Street. The staff provides services to three National Forests as well as other federal lands in the Mid-Atlantic sub region. The sub-region covers six states (New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Ohio) and Washington DC.

THE COMMUNITY
Morgantown, West Virginia is a small city with a large land-grant university – West Virginia University – and offers numerous cultural events, good schools and hospitals, college football and basketball stadiums, a rail-trail, and is close to skiing, world-class white water rafting, mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, and wilderness adventure. There are numerous small, local farms and a vibrant downtown farmers market in the summer. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is less than 100 miles away and offers big city benefits.
Morgantown is the largest city in North-Central, West Virginia, and is home to around 30 thousand people. The median age of residence is 24 years, with a per capita income of $26,000. The mean commute to work time is 17 minutes, and the median cost of housing is $210,000, with a median rent of $851.

West Virginia is referred to as the "Mountain State," with the highest mean altitude east of the Mississippi River, is also the state with the largest single natural scenic and outdoor recreational area in the eastern United States; the Allegheny Highlands. Eighty percent of the state is forested with over 110,000 square miles of hardwood forest, wind-swept mountains and photo-perfect valley landscapes.

Additional information about the community and state:
https://www.morgantownwv.gov/
https://monongaliacounty.gov/
https://wvtourism.com/

FOR MORE INFORMATION and RESPONDING TO THIS OUTREACH
To express interest in this position please complete the attached outreach response and send it to Rick Turcotte at richard.m.turcotte@usda.gov, Forest Health Group Leader in the Morgantown Field Office. For more information please contact Rick by email or by phone at (304)-285-1544.

When this job is announced the vacancy announcement for this position will be posted at www.usajobs.com. Once the announcement is posted, all who responded to the outreach notice will be contacted by email to provide the vacancy announcement number so interested individuals can submit applications. Response to this outreach notice and submission of the Outreach Response form is voluntary.

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."
OUTREACH RESPONSE
Entomologist GS-0414-9/11
Eastern Region, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection
Morgantown Field Office, Morgantown, WV
Respond by (February 4, 2022) to richard.m.turcotte@usda.gov

NAME: 
E-MAIL ADDRESS: 
MAILING ADDRESS: 
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: 
TELEPHONE: 

CURRENT STATUS:

Agency: 
Type of Appointment: Permanent □ Temporary □ Term □ VRA □ PWD □ Other
Region: 
Forest: 
District: 
Series: 
Grade: 
Position Title: 

If you are not currently a permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities?

People with Disabilities □
Veterans Readjustment Authority □
Disabled Veterans w/30% Compensable Disability □
Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 □
Former Peace Corps Volunteer □
Student Career Experience Program/Pathways □
Other □

Please list formal education (degree received & date attained) & briefly describe why you are interested in this position in the box below:

__________________________

Submission of this form is voluntary – thank you for your interest!