



# **Carson National Forest**

## **Outreach Notice**

**Permanent, Full Time**

**Biological Technician (Wildlife)**

**GS-0404-5/6/7**

**Peñasco or Questa, New Mexico**



*The Carson National Forest is filling a permanent appointment located either in Peñasco or Questa, NM. The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to inform prospective applicants of this opportunity and to determine course of action in how to fill the position. Respond no later than July 3, 2020*

### **ABOUT THE POSITION**

This position serves as the sole permanent biological technician for the East Zone, covering both Questa and Camino Real Ranger Districts. The incumbent fills a critical role in the East Zone Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants program, providing support to the East Zone Wildlife Biologist in a variety of ways. Major duties include: Plans and

conducts field surveys for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; Performs maintenance of wildlife water features under the Habitat Stamp Program; Gathers data and conducts analysis for wildlife reports for review by the Wildlife Biologist; Participates in evaluation of environmental effects for various projects; Uses GIS software for field planning and habitat analysis; Participates in conservation education and other public outreach efforts; Assists with the development and implementation of habitat improvement projects; Performs other duties as assigned.

Government housing may be available.

## **ABOUT THE CAMINO REAL and QUESTA RANGER DISTRICTS:**

The Camino Real Ranger District is approximately 320,000 acres and borders the lands of the Taos Pueblo to the north, the communities of Angel Fire and Chacon to the east, the community of Truchas and the Santa Fe National Forest to the south, and the lands of the Picuris Pueblo and Serna Land Grant to the west. Main routes of travel through the District are State Highway 64 (Taos Canyon); State Highway 518 (Taos to Chacon); State Highway 75 (Dixon) and State Highway 76 (Española).

The administrative site for the Camino Real Ranger District is located in Peñasco (elev. 7,687', pop. 639), nestled in a valley at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, approximately 25 miles south of Taos (pop. 5,500) and 33 miles northeast of Española (pop. 9,000). Peñasco is surrounded by several other small communities which contains approximately 2,500 people; the town of Taos and adjacent communities contains approximately 10,000 people. The town of Taos is the county seat of Taos County.

The Questa Ranger District is approximately 272,000 acres and borders the lands of Sangre de Cristo Land Grant to the north, Maxwell Grant and the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch to the east, Taos Pueblo to the south, and the Rio Grande Gorge and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument to the west. Main routes of travel through the district are State Highway 522 (Taos to Costilla), and State Highway 38 (Questa to Red River).

The administrative site for the Questa Ranger District is located in the village of Questa (elev. 7,451', pop 1,754), approximately 25 miles north of Taos and 75 miles north of Española, the nearest sizeable towns. Alamosa, Colorado (pop. 10,000) is located 75 miles north of Questa. Access to Questa from Taos is via U.S. Highway 522 and east on State Highway 38. Questa is the gateway to Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and quick access to the mountain community of Red River.

Both communities are located in Taos County, total population estimated at 32,907. Hispanics comprise the majority of the population, with most of the residents being descendants of the original Spanish land grant families or local tribes such as Taos Pueblo and Picuris Pueblo. There is a strong cultural tie to the land by most residents. Residents are very proud of their cultural background and history. Most families have lived in the area for many generations.

Housing is available in Peñasco, but costs vary, usually ranging from \$75,000 - \$250,000, depending on location and availability. The median gross rent is \$600. The cost of living can be high due to distance from facilities and limited housing. Housing is also available in Questa, and can vary, with median asking price for a single family home around \$230,000. The Questa rental market is generally more affordable than Taos. The Taos area is within a reasonable commuting distance, with a median asking price wavering around \$300,000. Rentals average \$1,000, but vary greatly in availability and price is often driven by the season.

Ranching, construction companies, state/county government, and the local school system are the primary employers. A tourism-based services economy continues to grow within the area with the following attractions: Historic Taos Pueblo, Rio Grande Gorge, Taos Ski Valley, Sipapu Ski Area, Red River Ski Area, Pecos Wilderness, Valle Vidal, and Wheeler Peak, the highest mountain in New Mexico with an elevation of 13,161 feet. There are numerous trout streams as major destinations during the summer. Downhill skiing, hunting, snowmobiling and

cross-country skiing are popular during the fall/winter. Much of the local job market tends to be seasonal.

The climate is quite mild, with summer daytime temperatures averaging 80 degrees and nighttime temperatures averaging 50 degrees. Winter daytime temperatures average 30-40 degrees and nighttime temperatures average 20 degrees.

Precipitation averages 18 inches per year at lower elevations and ranges up to 25 inches per year at higher elevations. The east zone has two periods of precipitation during the year. The largest amount occurs in the winter season between November and March, and the summer rains usually come in July and August.

### **ABOUT THE REGION:**

The Southwestern Region consists of 20.6 million acres. There are six national forests in Arizona, five national forests and one national grassland in New Mexico, and one national grassland, each in Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle. The Southwestern US is one of the most diverse and rapidly growing regions of the country. The Region's programs represent the full complexity of resource management in the Forest Service, with an emphasis on customer service, partnership and contributing to the Southwestern quality of life.

### **ABOUT THE FOREST:**

The Carson National Forest is one of five national forests in New Mexico with six ranger districts across five counties. Some of the finest mountain scenery in the Southwest is found in the 1.5 million acres covered by the Carson National Forest. Elevations rise from 6,000 feet to 13,161 feet at Wheeler Peak. The Forest Supervisor's Office is located in Taos, New Mexico.

### **Access/Nearest Airport/Nearest Big City:**

The nearest airports are in Taos (approximately 33 miles from Peñasco, 25 from Questa) and Santa Fe (approximately 60 miles south from Peñasco, 103 from Questa). The Albuquerque International Airport is approximately 116 miles south of Peñasco, 159 miles from Questa. Taos is the nearest larger town. Santa Fe is larger than Española /Alamosa and Albuquerque is a larger city with a population of over 250,000.

### **Recreational/Entertainment Opportunities:**

The magnificent mountain scenery of Northern New Mexico and cool summer temperatures lure visitors to enjoy the peace and quiet found within multiple mountain ranges to enjoy fishing, hunting, camping and hiking. Some of the finest alpine downhill (Taos Ski Valley, Red River, Angel Fire and Sipapu Ski Areas) and cross country skiing in the US is also found on the Carson National Forest as well as snowshoeing and snowmobiling. The cultural influence, art, and architecture from the Native American pueblos and Spanish American villages of northern New Mexico are unique to this part of the nation and the world. Taos and Santa Fe have world-class art communities. Special events in art, music, dance and theater occur frequently. There is camping, hunting, fishing and hundreds of miles of sparkling clean mountain streams and numerous lakes, many of which are occupied with native trout. For other entertainment, Las Vegas, Española, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Taos, or Albuquerque are a short drive away.

### **Additional Community Information:**

Peñasco, NM: <http://newmexico.hometownlocator.com/nm/taos/penasco.cfm>

Questa, NM: <https://questa-nm.com>

Taos, NM: [www.taos.org](http://www.taos.org)

Española, NM: [www.espanolanmchamber.com](http://www.espanolanmchamber.com)

Alamosa, CO: [www.alamosa.org](http://www.alamosa.org)

USDA Forest Service, Carson National Forest: [www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson)

**For more information about this position, contact Sean Ferrell, Camino Real District Ranger at (575) 770-0003 or [sean.ferrell@usda.gov](mailto:sean.ferrell@usda.gov)**

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## OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

If you are interested in this position, please complete this form **with a copy of your current resume** and email to Sean Ferrell ([sean.ferrell@usda.gov](mailto:sean.ferrell@usda.gov)). Please indicate if you are currently permanently employed in federal service or eligible for any special hiring authorities. Please respond by July 3, 2020 in order to be considered.

I am interested in the following position: **GS-0404-5/6/7 Biological Technician (Wildlife)**

Location: **Region 3, Carson National Forest, Camino Real Ranger District, Peñasco NM or Questa Ranger District, Questa, NM**

### PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name:		Date:	
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Address:	
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Email Address:	
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Phone:	
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Are you currently a Federal employee?	YES:		NO:	
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IF YES: Current Agency and location:	
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Current title/series/grade:	
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Type of Appointment:	Permanent		Term		Temporary	
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If you are not a current permanent employee (career or career conditional), are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities?	
	Person with Disabilities
	Veterans Recruitment Act
	Former Peace Corps Volunteer
	Disabled Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability
	Public Land Corps Hiring Authority
	Pathways Program
	Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998
	Other, please describe:

*Thank you for your interest!*