

USDA Forest Service Southwest Region



Outreach Notice Gila National Forest Supervisor's Office

Soil Scientist, GS-0470-7/9/11, 120-Day Detail and Permanent Position

The **Gila National Forest** is currently seeking a motivated candidate for a **Soil Scientist, 120-Day Detail and/or Permanent position** located at the Supervisor's Office in **Silver City, NM**.

For additional information, please feel free to contact Carolyn Koury, Watershed and Air Program Manager, Gila NF at (575) 388-8378; carolyn.koury@usda.gov).

Please respond to this outreach notice by providing a resume by March 17th, 2023 to carolyn.koury@usda.gov if interested in the detail.

DUTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS POSITION:

The person in this position assists in conducting standard forest, rangeland soil resources studies and riparian assessments. Typical activities include:

- Analyze and describe how soils will react under different management practices or activities and preparing reports to be used in land use planning. (e.g., timber sales, watershed rehabilitation projects, rangeland grazing, transportation planning, recreation development, etc.).
- Conducting site visits and soils evaluations to planned project areas, preparing watershed reports for Forest NEPA Projects.
- Monitors ongoing projects to evaluate the effects of management practices on the soil resource.
- Performing other activities (timber cruising, fire suppression, etc.) to broaden knowledge about the Forest Service.
- Member of the Forests Burned Area Emergency Response Team.

DUTY STATION

The duty station for this position is the Forest Supervisor's Office located in Silver City, NM in the southwestern part of the state of New Mexico.

Every National Forest offers its own unique beauty. The Gila's beauty is in its diversity of rugged mountains, deep canyons, meadows, and semi-desert country. It is one of the more remote and least developed National Forests in the southwest. Covering 3.3 million acres of publicly owned forest and range land (which includes that part of the Apache NF in NM that is managed by the Gila), the Forest is the sixth largest National Forest in the continental United States. Elevations range from 4,200 to 10,900

feet and cover four of the six life zones. Flora and fauna are diverse. Ocotillo and cactus are found in the lower elevations, and juniper, pine, aspen, and spruce-fir forests are plentiful in the high mountains. Wildlife such as the black bear, mountain lion, elk, deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, and wild turkey inhabit the Forest. The bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and the red-tailed hawk are also present.

The Forest boasts a rich history of the Mogollon and Apache Indians, Spanish and Mexican culture, ranchers, prospectors and miners. Apache Chiefs Mangas Coloradas, Geronimo, and Victorio; conservationist, ecologist and author of the Sand County Almanac Aldo Leopold; and renowned lion hunter Ben Lilly are but a few of the personalities from the past that have left their mark on the Gila.

Another unique beauty of the Gila National Forest is its wilderness. The Gila, Aldo Leopold, and Blue Range Wildernesses offer unparalleled hiking and horseback riding. The 558,065-acre Gila Wilderness, created in June 1924 at the urging of the great conservation pioneer Aldo Leopold, was the world's first designated wilderness. The Wilderness areas on the Gila comprise a vast, roadless realm astride the Black, Mogollon, Diablo, and Blue mountain ranges, varying from grassland foothills upward through juniper woodland, ponderosa pine, and then spruce-fir forests on the high peaks. Mountain meadows, aspen glades, and spruce forests border on narrow, rock-walled canyons which in some places plunge to depths of more than a thousand feet.

The Gila, San Francisco, and Mimbres rivers; the Catwalk National Recreation Trail; the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail; Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument; Trail of the Mountain Spirits and Geronimo National Scenic Byways; and Mogollon Baldy, Eagle Peak Mountain, Emory Pass and the Burro Mountains are but a few of the attractions on the Gila. Other areas of interest include Quemado and Snow Lakes, Lake Roberts, Dragonfly Trail, Cooney's Tomb, and the many developed and undeveloped recreation areas <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/gila/home>.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Gila National Forest is headquartered in Silver City, New Mexico. Silver City www.townofsilvercity.org and the surrounding communities of Bayard, Santa Clara, Tyrone and Hurley are located in southwest New Mexico. Main access to Silver City is via Highway 180 north from Interstate 25 at Deming, NM. The elevation is 5,900 feet above sea level. Silver City boasts four gentle seasons. The average annual temperature is 54 degrees. May is the driest month of the year while July is the wettest. The annual average precipitation is 15.69 inches. Silver City does not normally get a lot of snow – it might stick around a few hours or possibly a day or two and then is gone.

The population of Silver City is approximately 10,000 and Grant County is about 29,000. Silver City was recently selected as one of the healthiest places to live and retire in the U.S.. Downtown Silver City is undergoing a revitalization effort and features many locally-owned shops, galleries, and restaurants.

The community has two libraries, churches of many denominations, a Regional hospital <http://www.grmc.org/>, several medical clinics, ambulance service, an emergency care clinic, physicians of all specialty areas, dentists, and assisted living and nursing homes. There are two newspapers, several motels, radio stations, city and county offices and local retail businesses. Community recreation facilities include baseball and soccer fields, an all-weather track, tennis courts, a skateboard park, health and fitness clubs, a community outdoor swimming pool, an 18-hole golf course, a bowling center and parks. Organized youth sports activities are numerous. Fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling and camping are popular activities. Main industries are tourism, mining, and ranching. The nearest commercial airports are in El Paso, TX (2.5 hours), Tucson, AZ (3 hours) and Albuquerque, NM (4.5 hours). Grant County airport in Silver City also provides some services with Advanced Airlines and daily flights to Phoenix, AZ and Albuquerque, NM.

Grant County has two public school districts, Silver Consolidated and Cobre Consolidated School Districts. There are several private schools and alternative schools. Western New Mexico University www.wnmu.edu/ offers four-year programs and two-year technical programs in such areas as education, nursing, arts, business, and natural and social sciences. Several graduate programs are also offered.

Rental homes and apartments range from about \$750.00 and up per month for an average three bedroom home/apartment. Single family home prices vary considerably.

Area recreation facilities and attractions include the 3.3 million acre Gila National Forest <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/gila/home>; Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument; the Gila, Aldo Leopold, and Blue Range Wilderness areas; Western New Mexico University Museum; Silver City Museum; City of Rocks State Park; and historic Pinos Altos.

Some of the special local events include the Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo, Tour of the Gila Bicycle Race, Gila River Festival, Gila Regional Medical Center Benefit Golf Tournament, Silver City Blues Festival, Christmas Lighted Parade, July 4 Festivities, Weekend at the Galleries, Farmer's Market, Grant County Fair, Gem and Mineral Show, Pickmania Weekend, Mimbres Regional Arts Council events www.mimbresarts.org/, Silver City Main Street Project events www.silvercitymainstreet.com and several presentations at the University Fine Arts Theatre by the Grant County Community Concert Association – www.gccconcerts.org.

Major employers are Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold mines, Gila Regional Medical Center, Silver Schools and Bayard Schools, Western New Mexico University, Wal-Mart, Town of Silver City, Grant County, State of New Mexico, Gila National Forest, and the many local service, supply and construction businesses.

Contact the Chamber of Commerce at P.O. Box 1028, Silver City, NM 88062, 1-800-548-9378, or their website at <http://www.silvercity.org/> for very detailed information about the community, special events, and the surrounding area.



OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM
SOUTHWESTERN REGION GILA NATIONAL FOREST
Soil Scientist
Silver City, NM

NAME:			
E-MAIL ADDRESS:			
TELEPHONE NUMBER:			
AGENCY CURRENTLY EMPLOYED WITH (if applicable)			
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT INTERESTED IN:	TEMP	PERM	BOTH
OTHER (SPECIFY): (VRA, PWD, OTHER, ETC.)			
HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS VACANCY?			
CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT:			
CURRENT SERIES GRADE:			
CURRENT POSITION TITLE:			

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR VACANCY!

Email response form to: carolyn.koury@usda.gov by COB March 17, 2022.