

**Department of Transformation and Shared Services**

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Secretary Leslie Fisk

Director Kay Barnhill

October 18, 2023

The Honorable Breanne Davis, Co-Chairperson
 The Honorable Mark Berry, Co-Chairperson
 Uniform Personnel Classification and
 Compensation Plan Subcommittee
 Arkansas Legislative Council
 State Capitol Building, Room 315
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Davis and Representative Berry:

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) submits a request from the Arkansas Department of Agriculture for your review for one growth pool position from the OPM growth pool established by Arkansas Code Annotated § 21-5-225 (b)(1), along with one (1) new classification. The classification requested is listed below:

CLASSIFICATIONS REQUESTED

<u>CLASS CODE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SALARY RANGE</u>
NEW	Agri General Counsel	GS15	\$96,960 – \$140,592

Although these positions are Growth Pool requests, the department voluntarily agrees to leave the following positions vacant until the next biennium, when they will be given up, in a show of good faith and to bring down the cost.

POSITIONS VOLUNTARILY LEFT VACANT

<u>POSITION NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CLASS CODE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SALARY RANGE</u>	<u>LAST DATE VACATED</u>
22088551	County Forest Ranger	B088C	GS06	\$63,155 – \$52,424	5/19/2023
22088520	Forest Ranger II	B098C	GS05	\$32,405 – \$46,987	6/30/2022

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JUSTIFICATION

The Division of Shared Services is requesting one (i) Growth Pool position for an Agri General Counsel due to a significant increase in duties and responsibilities from the recent addition of several new program, grants, agency transfers, and changes in the industry. This position would provide a career path as well and would be paid from both special and general revenue. Approval of this request will result in an anticipated cost of approximately \$106,061. including matching.

The Office of Personnel Management has reviewed the request and recommends the approval of one (i) Growth Pool position and one (1) new title.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Kay Beinhart

STATE PERSONNEL DIRECTOR

9/26/23
DATE

KB/SD:1-2

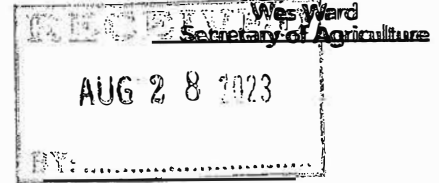


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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



August 24, 2023

Ms. Kay Barnhill
Administrator, Office of Personnel Management
Arkansas Department of Transformation and Shared Services
501 Woodlane
Little Rock, AR 72202

Dear Ms. Barnhill:

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture respectfully requests a new Agri General Counsel position, GS15.

The Department originally requested a new Agri General Counsel position in 2021 due to the increased oversight and management of new and expanded responsibilities of the Department's legal section due to new programs, industry changes, and increased industry demands. These responsibilities increased again recently with the addition of new programs and state and federal grants that bring additional legal oversight and analysis of a broad array of unique legal issues. This GS15 position would also provide career path progression within the section and assist with recruiting and retention. This position would be paid through a combination of general and special revenue.

The Department has identified the following two vacant positions that will be left vacant until the next biennium when they will be given up in a show of good faith and to bring down costs:

- GS06 22088551 County Ranger
- GS05 22088520 Ranger II

Surrendering these positions would result in a savings of \$13,200. Approval of this request will result in a cost of \$119,260, including match.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please let me know if additional information is needed.

Respectfully,

Wesley W. Ward
Wesley W. Ward
Secretary of Agriculture
State of Arkansas