



Forest Inventory and Analysis

USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station

--- Outreach Notice ---

Research Forester, GS-460-11/12

or

Research Ecologist, GS-404-11/12

Introduction

The USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station will be filling a GS-0460-11/12 Research Forester or Research Ecologist permanent position. This early alert notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity and to determine interest. We encourage you to express your interest in this position. It is expected this position will be advertised in September, 2008. Once advertised, further information on the position and how to apply will be posted at the following web page: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

The Position

The position is administered and funded by the Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis (NRS-FIA) program (<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/fia/>). The mission of the NRS-FIA program is:

To ensure the health and sustainability of forest ecosystems, and the well-being of the people and communities that rely on them, by conducting multi-scale inventory, monitoring, and assessment activities that develop the information and tools necessary to inform forest policies and practices, and increase the understanding of forest processes and associated threats to ecosystem health.

The research assignment encompasses sampling, estimation, and quality assurance research. Research emphasis is on the development and evaluation of new techniques to improve forest resource inventories and the analysis of data collected in these inventories. The assignment requires expertise in methods for developing harmonized estimates of volume, biomass, and carbon from measurements taken on FIA plots, e.g. live trees, standing dead trees, saplings, seedlings, shrubs, down woody material, and organic soil carbon. Various model forms and approaches to model fitting are investigated. Trade-offs between measurement error, measurement costs, and model requirements must be considered and add to the complexity of the problem.

The assignment also includes responsibility for assisting in the incorporation of remote sensing and geo-spatial technologies into NRS-FIA estimation and reporting functions. This includes work to improve NRS-FIA's ability to utilize remote sensing and geo-statistics in a broad range of ways, from enhancing and improving sampling and estimation, to better ways to display results.

Much of the research assignment relates to the development and implementation of the annual forest inventory system. The objective of this research is to develop sampling, estimation, and data processing methods that will be consistent nation-wide, are based on plot measurements taken annually in every state, and will provide the best possible annual estimates. Other areas of work include incorporating forest growth models into the annual system, development of data structures to support annual estimation, determining sample intensity, and quality control/quality assurance.

The position will be designated as the principal analyst responsible for completing state-level reports and associated analyses. This responsibility covers the entire study process, including study initiation with state forestry agencies and other customers; planning and designing final reporting frameworks and products; compiling tabular, graphic, and mapped information; obtaining full scientific and peer reviews; and presenting, publishing, and disseminating study results.

The Research Work Environment

The position performs as a member of the NRS-FIA Analytical Science Group, which is a research team that conducts comprehensive analyses of condition, health, and sustainability for northern forest ecosystems. The Analytical Science Group operates under an open management, team-oriented philosophy that empowers researchers to create new ways of conducting their work. This approach is designed to stimulate passionate exploration of research ideas with few limits on performance-based upward mobility. The Supervisors operate as a “player coaches,” as all team members have shared responsibilities for outcomes. The degree to which the position shares in leadership-management responsibilities is a significant measure of success.

Salary Range: \$57,000 to \$90,000 depending on qualifications.

Qualifications Required: Must be a U.S. citizen to apply, as well as have appropriate college coursework, and commensurate experience. In addition to basic qualifications, applications may be screened for several of the following knowledge, skills, and abilities which may include: External Relations, Communications, Leadership, Interpersonal Relations, Management Functions, Knowledge of Forest Inventory and Analysis, and Knowledge of Research Methods and Processes. Relocation expenses will not be paid.

About the Locations

The NRS-FIA has locations at Newtown Square, PA and St. Paul, MN.

Newtown Square is nestled in the verdant and pastoral Delaware Valley and on the western fringe of the Philadelphia metropolitan area. The region has full access to transportation, shopping, utilities, recreation, and other suburban amenities. Philadelphia is the nation’s fourth largest metropolitan area and the region’s cultural center with a wide range of opportunities for enjoying music, other arts, history,

museums, three new professional sports arenas, and a diversity of other entertainment. Further access to northeastern US culture and heritage can be found in nearby New York City, Boston, Washington DC, and Wilmington, DE. Housing prices in the region are competitive; however, real-estate has proven to be a winning investment. The area has many stellar colleges and universities, such as University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College, Villanova University, and Penn State. Local school districts rank among the best in the nation. Newtown Square is a few hours from major recreation areas, such as the Atlantic beaches and Pocono Mountain ski resorts. Pennsylvania also enjoys a large area of wild forestland that attracts outdoor enthusiasts from surrounding states. Some examples include the Appalachian Mountain and Pocono Mountain Regions where camping, hiking, birding, elk watching, boating, hunting, fishing, and related activities abound.

The **St. Paul** office is located on the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus in the heart of the Twin Cities. The Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis are both progressive cities with a dynamic vibe and a whirlwind of creative energy. Here, you'll find all the attractions, events and excitement of a major metropolitan area, without the hassles. The Twin Cities has full access to transportation, shopping, utilities, recreation, and other suburban amenities. With a wide range of opportunities for enjoying music, other arts, history, museums, professional sports, and a diversity of other entertainment.

Housing prices in the Twin Cities are competitive and the local school districts rank among the best in the nation; the area has many stellar colleges and universities, such as University of Minnesota, Hamline University, William Mitchell Law School, and Augsburg College.

The St. Paul office is only a few hours from major recreation areas, such as the Spirit Mountain and Lutsen ski resorts. Minnesota also enjoys a large area of wild forestland that attracts outdoor enthusiasts from surrounding states. Some examples include the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Voyageurs National Park where camping, hiking, birding, boating and canoeing, hunting, fishing, and related activities abound.

Either location is a perfect place to build a career.

For further information on this position, contact:

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For more information about FIA:

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/fia/>

<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/>

The USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. The USDA Forest Service also provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify Bill Mannion, Human Resources Specialist, at (610) 557-4236. USDA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

OUTREACH NOTICE FORM

Forest Forester
GS-460-12

If you are not a current Forest Service employee or do not have access to e-mail please complete the form and mail to: USDA-FS, Northern Research Station Attn: Will McWilliams, 11 Campus Blvd. Suite 200, Newtown Square, PA 19073. You may also FAX the form to FAX# 610-557-4250, or e-mail to wmcwilliams@fs.fed.us

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy.

Position Title/Series/Grade
Location:
PERSONAL INFORMATION
Name:
Address:
E-mail:
Phone:
Current job title:
Are you currently a Federal employee?
IF YES, current Agency and location: