



U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Employment Outreach Notice

Forestry Technician
GS-0462-05/06 Temporary (1039 hours)
Salary Range \$34,545 to \$50,056 per year

Pacific Northwest Research Station
Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program
Anchorage, Alaska

Please reply by January 12, 2015

About the position:

The Anchorage Forestry Sciences Lab anticipates hiring 3-5 temporary positions (6 months maximum) to serve as crew members on the data collection team in Alaska. These positions are with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program (<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/rma/fia-topics/index.php>). The Alaska FIA Program conducts forest inventories and forest health monitoring on forestlands of all land ownerships. FIA installs permanent research plots that are measured on a 10 cycle. A wide range of forestry variables are collected on each plot in addition to forest health measurements that include; vegetation, lichens, soils, fuels, and crown measurements.

Alaska is divided into two units, coastal and interior. During the 2015 field season, all positions will be working within the coastal unit, with limited work occurring in the interior portion of the state. Inventory work will primarily be conducted in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska between Ketchikan and the Kenai Peninsula. While in Alaska, field operations will be based primarily aboard a research vessel, the Norseman II (<http://www.norsemanmaritime.com/>). Travel to and from research sites is accomplished predominantly by helicopter flights, with occasional skiff, float plane, and vehicle access. In future years, more work may be divided between Alaska's Coastal and Interior units.

Positions with FIA in Alaska are adventurous, challenging, and rewarding. The terrain encountered while flying, hiking, and working can be immensely spectacular, but it can also be very physically and mentally challenging. Physical fitness, willingness to work long hours in close quarters, and flexibility to changing situations are key qualities for success.

Temporary positions generally last from 3-6 months (6 months not guaranteed) and may not exceed 1039 hours. Training begins in early May (in Anchorage) and the field season runs from late May-August. Additional work *may* be available with FIA crews in California, Oregon, or Washington after the completion of the Alaska field season.

Duties: The majority of work will be devoted to data collection operations, of which, approximately three to five months will be spent in the field. Crews of two to five people will collect data for inventory and forest health monitoring, primarily in the coastal regions of Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. Duties include

photo interpretation, locating inventory plots in remote settings, measuring various forest and site attributes, and supporting our safety program. Duties also include daily documentation, downloading, and editing of field data. After training in Anchorage, the field season work schedule is 11 days in the field followed by 4 days off in Anchorage.

Work Environment: Alaska provides a wide diversity of ecological communities, which include Sitka spruce and hemlock rain forests, interior mixed spruce and birch boreal forests, and expansive black spruce bogs. Extensive areas of alpine tundra, shrub land, high peaks, and glaciers occupy the non-forest areas. Working conditions in these areas are often arduous. Work may be performed in inclement weather (cold, rain, snow), on steep, slippery, and/or brushy slopes, and in the presence of biting insects. A **significant** amount of off-trail hiking is required. Employees must carry a 45lb pack daily, with pack weights occasionally exceeding 55lbs. Excellent physical conditioning is absolutely essential. Alaska crews are required to travel in small aircraft, helicopters, and boats. Employees carry a firearm for bear protection and consequentially are subject to a federal background investigation, pre-hire drug testing as well as random drug testing. Living quarters on the research vessel are extremely cramped. Background noise (from generators) is constant and motion sickness is a problem for some employees. Although attempts are made to honor special dietary requirements, all food is prepared by a contracted cook.

Anchorage is nestled between the Chugach Mountains and the upper shores of Cook Inlet in the heart of Alaska's Southcentral Gulf Coast. It is central to many recreational opportunities and offers many cultural activities from a performing arts center to outdoor music festivals. With a diverse population of about 300,000, Anchorage offers most of the amenities found in much larger cities (Museum of History and Art, Performing Arts Center, Native Heritage Center, shopping centers, and several large hospitals). The city trail system offers ample recreation opportunities and a sense of wilderness within the city. There are over 120 miles of groomed X-country ski/hiking/biking trails (30 miles lighted), over 70 ball fields, 5 golf courses, and numerous small parks and playgrounds.

If you are interested in these positions please complete and submit the attached form. To apply for these positions, you must apply when vacancy announcements are posted on USA jobs (<http://www.usajobs.gov>). **We hope to have the vacancy announcement posted in February.** When you respond to this form we will make sure to add your name to our e-mailing list and send a link to the vacancy announcement when it opens.

For more information:

Please contact Dan Irvine, Coastal Alaska Coordinator, at 907-748-2096 or danielirvine@fs.fed.us. You may also send in the attached response form by regular mail to:

Dan Irvine
Coastal Alaska Coordinator
Anchorage Forestry Sciences Lab
161 East 1st St., Door 8
Anchorage, AK 99501.

When the position is advertised, the announcement will be posted at www.usajobs.gov.

OUTREACH NOTICE

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Research Crew Member

Pacific Northwest Research Station, Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program

Forest Inventory and Analysis

Anchorage, Alaska

PLEASE SUBMIT BY January 12th, 2015

If you are interested in this position, please complete this outreach notice and return it, along with a current resume (optional), to Dan Irvine, 161 East 1st Street, Door 8, Anchorage, AK, 99501 **or** danielirvine@fs.fed.us. Electronic submissions are preferred. Individuals who respond to this notice will be notified of the vacancy announcement for the position. The job announcement will be advertised on the USAJobs website www.usajobs.gov.

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

If you are currently employed by the Federal Government:

WHAT AGENCY ARE YOU EMPLOYED BY: _____

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:

PERMANENT_____TEMPORARY_____TERM_____OTHER_____

If you are not currently a Federal Employee:

CURRENT EMPLOYER:

Are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former Peace Corps | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Recruitment Act |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Employment Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement Eligibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other_____ |

The announcement will contain all of the information you need to apply for the position. To be considered, applicants must be U.S. citizens. The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish an appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the vacancy announcement (Region-wide, Service-wide, USDA-wide, Government-wide, and/or DEMO). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make these determinations.

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