



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

**Biological Scientist
GS-0401-07/09 PSE 18/8**

See OPM guidelines for wage information:

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/>

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

Please reply by March 6, 2015

The PNW Research Station, Anchorage Forestry Sciences Lab, **anticipates filling 1 Crew Leader/Gear/Fleet/Safety Liaison** position with the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program.

PLEASE NOTE: The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish the appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the advertisement. Responses received from this outreach notice will be used to make this determination.

The vacancy announcement for this position, when open, will be posted at the USA Jobs website, the U.S. Government's official site for jobs and employment information: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>

About the position:

The Crew Leader/Gear/Fleet/Safety Liaison position is with the Data Collection Team of the PNW Research Station's Resource Monitoring and Assessment (RMA) Program, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) unit. The FIA unit is part of a nationwide program which collects, processes, analyzes, evaluates, and publishes comprehensive information on forest and other related renewable resources. During the field season (~9 pay periods per year), the Crew Leader position leads a crew of two to four people collecting field data for annual inventory and forest health monitoring in all parts of the state. Crew leaders share duties as helicopter managers and will receive training leading to helicopter manager certification. For the remainder of the year (~9 pay periods), this position is responsible for inventory, maintenance, record keeping, and other tasks associated with maintaining the Data Collection Team's gear, fleet, and safety.

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

This permanent seasonal position is 18/8, meaning that a minimum of 18 two-week pay periods of work per year (about eight months) are guaranteed. Additional work may be possible. The Alaska field season usually lasts 9 pay periods, so the guaranteed 18 pay periods of work includes approximately 9 additional pay periods of work in Anchorage. Appointees may be offered the opportunity to work longer depending on workload and funding. This position is career ladder with the full performance level at a GS-09.

A majority of the duties will be devoted to data collection operations of which, between two and four months will be spent in the field. Crews of two to four people will collect field data for inventory and forest health monitoring. Duties include photo interpretation, locating inventory plots, and measuring various tree and site information. Measurements taken by crews include: tree/sapling/seedling data (species, diameter, height, defect, insect & disease, damage, etc.); understory vegetation (shrub, herb, grass species and percent cover, etc.); down woody material (line transects, litter depth, and fuels measurement, etc.); and site index and site attributes (site tree selection, slope, aspect, topographic position, distance to water, etc.). Crews use portable, handheld computers to collect data in the field and then process the data later using laptop computers to address any inconsistencies or errors. Duties also include daily documentation, downloading, and editing of field data. The Alaska field season usually lasts from May through early or mid-August. After a series of trainings in Anchorage, the field season generally consists of a work schedule with 11 days in the field, working 8-12 hours per day, and 4 days off in Anchorage.

Before and after the Alaska field season, this position is responsible for the inventory, organization, repair, replacement, and general maintenance of field equipment and the vehicle fleet used and maintained by the AFSL Data Collection Team- including FIA projects in Alaska, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands. This position will also serve as a standing member on the PNW Safety Committee and will maintain detailed records of employee safety trainings in order to ensure compliance with regional and national standards.

Work Environment: Alaska provides a wide diversity of ecological communities, which include coastal 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. Work 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 aircrafts, helicopters, and boats. Employees carry a firearm for bear protection and, consequentially, are subject to a

federal background investigations and pre-hire and 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 when working off boats.

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.

For more information:

If you would like additional information about duties and work conditions of this position, or have questions, please contact Dan Irvine at danielirvine@fs.fed.us or at 907-748-2096.

If you are interested in this position with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, please send the attached response form and a resume (optional) to express your interest **by March 6th, 2015** to Dan Irvine at danielirvine@fs.fed.us, and you will be notified when the position is advertised. To apply for this position, you must apply when vacancy announcements are posted on www.usajobs.opm.gov.

You may also send in the attached response for by regular mail to:

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

This is a pre-announcement only. When the position is advertised, the announcement will be posted on the USA Jobs web site: www.usajobs.gov. 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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OUTREACH NOTICE RESPONSE FORM
GS-401-7/9 Biological Scientist (18/8)
PNW-FIA Field Crew Leader/Gear/Fleet/Safety Liaison
Pacific Northwest Research Station, Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program
Forest Inventory and Analysis
Anchorage, Alaska

PLEASE SUBMIT BY March 6th, 2015

If you are interested in this position and want to receive a notice when the Vacancy Announcement is posted, please complete this form and send it, along with a resume (optional), to: Dan Irvine, danielirvine@fs.fed.us or 161 East 1st Street, Door 8, Anchorage, AK, 99501. Electronic submissions are preferred. These positions will be advertised on the OPM 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 employed by the Forest Service:

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT REGION/FORREST/DISTRICT/STATION? _____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: _____

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: _____

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 _____ |