U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Employment Outreach Notice

Pacific Northwest Research Station

Anchorage, Alaska

Quality Assurance Inspector, GS-0401-07/09

See OPM guidelines for wage information:

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

PLEASE REPLY by COB February 4th, 2022

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION please send a completed outreach response form and a copy of your resume to:** Sarah Ellison, [sarah.ellison@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.ellison@usda.gov), using the subject line “PNWRS QA/COR Outreach Response”

The purpose of this outreach notice is to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity, determine the potential applicant pool, and establish the appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the vacancy announcement.  ***This outreach may also be used to identify candidates for possible non-competitive reassignment to this position.*** Responses and resumes received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make these determinations.

**ABOUT THE POSITION**

The U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNWRS) anticipates filling one (1) permanent seasonal position as a GS-0401-07/09 Quality Assurance Inspector (QA). The position is anticipated to work an 18/8 schedule, with 18 pay periods (36 weeks) of full time work guaranteed and an up to 8 pay period (16 weeks) furlough in non-pay status. 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. The position will act as the QA and Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) contract for on-grid plot services in Alaska. This contract is still under development, with the first period of performance anticipated to begin in spring of 2023. The incumbent will be responsible for developing the contract, selecting the vendors, developing and presenting training and certification to vendors under the terms of the contract, providing contractor support throughout the period of performance, inspecting contract plots, and submitting pay and performance documents.

Up to four months (June-September) per year will be spent in >75% travel status completing fieldwork around Alaska. In addition to work in support of contract plots, a portion of the field season will be spent as a crew leader for Alaska based production FIA plots, primarily in the Coastal Alaska unit. As a crew leader, the incumbent will be responsible in winter for identifying and planning logistics for plots with land-based access. Some work may occasionally be required from a liveaboard research vessel where personal space is limited. Due to the fieldwork requirement for this position, the incumbent must be capable of carrying a 45 pound pack in very poor weather and on steep, brushy terrain. A shotgun is required to be carried during fieldwork for protection against aggressive animals.

A Resource Helicopter Manager certification will be required to be achieved and maintained in order to utilize USFS Call When Needed/Blanket Purchase Agreement fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft to access field plots throughout Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. An ability to learn and apply USFS aviation policy is required. The incumbent may be required to supervise 1-2 employees as a minor (<20%) portion of the position to support the logistics for on-grid field work. A driver’s license is required. This position is a drug testing designated position.

**We are looking for individuals who possess:**

* Experience safely leading an ecological fieldwork team in challenging terrain
* A thorough knowledge of FIA protocol
* Strong organizational and communication skills
* The ability to achieve and maintain a Resource Helicopter Manager certification
* A positive customer service attitude and a strong work ethic, including maintaining a positive attitude during periods of heavy demand
* The ability to manage multiple priorities and solve problems independently in a fast-paced work environment

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) is a nationwide program which collects, processes, analyzes, evaluates, and publishes comprehensive information on forest and other related renewable resources. The Anchorage Forestry Sciences Lab (AFSL) is part of the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNWRS), and is responsible for the inventory of Alaska, Hawaii, and US affiliated Pacific islands. 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-year cycle. A wide range of forestry variables are collected on each plot in addition to forest health measurements that can include vegetation, lichens, soils, fuels, and crown measurements. The inventory data are widely used by forest managers, local and state governments and federal agencies in making policy decisions.

Alaska contains a wide diversity of ecological communities ranging from coastal temperate rain forests to mixed boreal hardwood forests and includes expansive black spruce bogs. Extensive areas of alpine tundra, shrub land, high peaks, and glaciers occupy the non-forest areas. Field work conditions in Alaska are often arduous. Work will primarily be performed in an office environment but some fieldwork may be required in inclement weather (cold, rain, snow), on steep, slippery, and/or brushy slopes, and in the presence of moose, bear, wolves, and biting insects. Travel for fieldwork may require access via small aircraft including float planes and helicopters, and occasionally boats.

**ABOUT THE COMMUNITY**

Anchorageis a full-service community nestled between the Chugach Mountains and the upper shores of Cook Inlet in the heart of Alaska’s south-central Gulf coast. With a diverse population of close to 300,000, Anchorage is a hub of most cultural, educational, and recreational activities in Alaska. Anchorage offers most of the amenities and cultural activities found in much larger cities (Museum of History and Art, Performing Art Center, Native Heritage Center, music and film festivals, shopping centers [no sales tax!], and several large hospitals), but maintains a rustic feeling.

There are several universities and colleges in the immediate area. Anchorage has many public elementary and secondary schools, as well as private schools and day care facilities. It is central to many recreational opportunities. The city trail system is rated one of the best in the country and it offers a sense of wilderness within the city limits.

There are more than 75 miles of groomed cross-country skiing, hiking, and biking trails (25 miles are lighted) in town. There are also more than 70 ball fields, 5 golf courses, and many small parks, ice rinks and playgrounds.

It is said that “Anchorage is only 10 minutes from Alaska” which is a testament to it being a full fledged city on the edge of vast wildernesses. A multitude of backcountry hikes, rides, skiing, and kayaking await at the edge of town. The city is also home to abundant wildlife. Moose are a common sight anywhere in town. Bears, wolves, Dall sheep, lynx, and beluga whales can be seen in the mountains above town or during a breathtaking drive down Turnagain arm.

For even more information on the Anchorage area check out: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anchorage,_Alaska>

**This is a pre-announcement only. When or if the position is advertised, the announcement will be posted on the USA Jobs web site:** [**www.usajobs.gov**](http://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.**

**The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).**