U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Employment Outreach Notice

Pacific Northwest Research Station

Anchorage, Alaska

Biological Scientist Assistant Coordinator, 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 March 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, using the subject line “PNWRS Assistant Coordinator 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 permanent seasonal position as a GS-0401-07/09 Biological Scientist Assistant Coordinator. The position is anticipated to work a 20/6 schedule, with 20 pay periods (40 weeks) of full time work guaranteed and an up to 6 pay period (12 weeks) furlough in non-pay status. A possible schedule for non-pay status is listed below; however the exact period of non-pay status will be negotiated on a yearly basis dependent on project needs. 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.

This position is a field-based Assistant Coordinator for the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data collection project, primarily supporting Coastal Alaska. The position’s will support the Coastal Alaska Data Collection Coordinators on logistics and fieldwork. The incumbent will serve as a member of the data collection leadership team, providing support on tasks as they arise throughout the year. Duties of the position will vary throughout the year and a key quality of the incumbent is flexibility and the ability to maintain positivity in the face of unpredictable changes. Possible tasks and schedules throughout the year are described as follows, but the incumbent must anticipate that these requirements may change as new priorities arise.

Field season (June-early September): Support the coordinator and field crew in daily logistics, scheduling, flight following, contract management and aviation tracking. Act as a Crew Leader on production plots (~75%), act as primary flight follower and scheduler while Coordinator accomplishes fieldwork (~25%). Nearly 100% travel is expected during this period, primarily on 4, 16-day fieldwork hitches with a one day break in the field. The primary fieldwork location will be a liveaboard research vessel where personal space is limited and communication with friends and family cannot be relied upon. 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.

Fall (mid September-October): potential projects include finalizing field season plot production and aviation accounting; completing the upcoming year’s prefield plot review and identifying the plot list; supervisory duties if applicable; completing or assisting with post-season data cleanup or gear management if current vacancies on the staff require. An opportunity for a fieldwork detail to Washington, Oregon, or California may be possible during this time. A flexible schedule incorporating part time work may be possible if desired during this time.

Spring (February-May): Assist the coordinator with field season preparation, including: researching travel options and finalizing travel schedules; assisting with contract preparations; assisting with hiring if needed; preparing and finalizing training schedules; assisting the Unit Aviation Officer with preparation of aviation documents. If staff vacancies require, prepare and deliver field season trainings and/or assist with gear management. A flexible schedule incorporating part time work may be possible if desired during this time.

A Resource Helicopter Manager certification will be required to be achieved and maintained in order to support the Exclusive Use Type III helicopter contract. An ability to learn and apply USFS aviation policy is required. It may be required to obtain and maintain a Contracting Officer’s Representative certification. Though supervisory duties are not anticipated at this time, the incumbent may be required to supervise 1-2 seasonal employees as a minor (<20%) portion of the position. A driver’s license is required.

**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, familiarity with rotorwing aircraft operations for Resources work
* 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anchorage%2C_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.**

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