U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Employment Outreach Notice

Pacific Northwest Research Station

Anchorage, Alaska or Remote\*

Unit Aviation Officer, GS-2101-11

See OPM guidelines for wage information:

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

PLEASE REPLY by COB January 26, 2022

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION please send a completed outreach response form and a copy of your resume to:** Dan Irvine, [Daniel.r.irvine@usda.gov](mailto:Daniel.r.irvine@usda.gov) using the subject line “PNWRS UAO Outreach Response”

\*The permanent position will be filled within the state of Alaska, at a duty location to be determined based upon program needs and outreach response. The temporary detail or promotion opportunity may be filled entirely remotely during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic under agency posture towards maximum telework.

**ABOUT THE POSITION**

The U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNWRS) anticipates filling one (1) permanent full-time position as a GS-2101-11 Unit Aviation Officer (UAO) to manage resource aviation operations for the Resource Monitoring and Assessment (RMA) program within the Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNWRS). This position acts as a liaison with aviation management and safety personnel on the local, regional, national levels as needed.

Within the RMA program, the PNW Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) unit is responsible for inventory and monitoring of all forested lands in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, and U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands. Forest Inventory and Analysis is a nationwide program that collects, processes, analyzes, interprets, and publishes comprehensive information on forest and other related natural resources. The inventory data are widely used by forest managers, local and state governments, and federal agencies in making policy decisions.

The Anchorage Forestry Sciences Lab (AFSL) hosts the FIA Data Collection team responsible for the inventory of Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands. The Anchorage-based FIA Data Collection team conducts extensive forest inventory throughout Alaska annually, operating exclusive use helicopter contracts and utilizing fixed-wing aircraft to facilitate travel to remote field bases. In addition, the PNW FIA unit conducts helicopter operations in Hawaii and Washington, and other PNWRS units regularly conduct aviation operations in Southeast Alaska, Washington, and Oregon for other projects. The FIA program collects forest inventory data on all land ownerships, which requires working with other State and Federal agencies to safely complete the mission.

The PNWRS Unit Aviation Officer (UAO) is responsible for all phases of the aviation program within the unit. This includes operations, management, administration, safety, training and program evaluation. The incumbent provides advice and guidance to managers, supervisors, project leaders and their staff to ensure aviation safety and cost-effectiveness in meeting a variety of missions and objectives. The level of aviation management staffing at the Research Unit level depends on the magnitude and complexity of aviation operations conducted within any given unit.

The Unit Aviation Officer’s primary task is to ensure that aviation operations adhere to agency policy and agency risk management principals, and to incorporate proven aviation safety practices into all aviation operations. The incumbent oversees operations which allow the unit to perform research utilizing aircraft (helicopters, float planes, etc). Ensures that basic operational elements are in place for all aviation operations; an approved and complete unit aviation plan, mission aviation safety plans (MASP), qualified personnel, carded pilots and aircraft, flight following, etc. Prepares, reviews and disseminates aviation policy statements, instruction memoranda, safety bulletins, lessons learned, manuals and handbooks. Manages the unit-wide Aviation Training Program to meet Forest Service and Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) requirements and ensure that all employees, managing, supervising, or involved in aircraft operations are well trained and fully qualified. Maintains unit-wide aviation training and qualifications records through IAT. Serve as Course Coordinator/instructor of aviation training sessions and workshops and provides input to interagency aviation curriculum and policy at the unit and Regional levels.

**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 fledge 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 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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