



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



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

Join Our Team!!!

We are outreaching for three (3) wonderful positions:

Interior Alaska Data Collection Coordinator

Supervisory Biological Scientist GS-0401-11 or Partnership Coordinator GS-0301-11/12
Detail / NTE 120-Day Temporary Promotion / -Or- Permanent Full-Time

Coastal Alaska Data Collection Coordinator

Supervisory Biological Scientist GS-0401-11
Detail / NTE 120-Day Temporary Promotion / -Or- Permanent Full-Time

Crew Leader / Gear & Equipment Manager

Biological Scientist GS-0401-07/09
Permanent-Seasonal 20/6

**Duty Station: Anchorage, AK
(Virtual for NTE 120-Day assignments)**

See OPM guidelines for wage information:

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

PLEASE REPLY by 5 p.m. AKST September 23, 2021

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION send a completed outreach response form and your resume to:
sm.fs.AFSLOutreach@usda.gov using the subject line "Interior Coordinator", "Coastal Coordinator", or "Gear Manager"
to indicate your interest.

Coordinator positions:

Questions can be directed to sm.fs.AFSLOutreach@usda.gov or to Dan Irvine at 907-748-2096.

Crew Leader / Gear & Equipment Manager position:

Questions can be directed to sm.fs.AFSLOutreach@usda.gov or to Sarah Ellison at 907-227-3963.

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 a position.*** Responses and resumes received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make these determinations.

Interior Alaska Data Collection Coordinator (GS-0401-11 -or- GS-0301-11/12):

The Interior Data Collection Coordinator is part of the Anchorage-based Data Collection team and is a member of the teams' management. This position reports directly to the Alaska Data Collection Team Leader and directly supervises two Interior Alaska Quality Assurance Inspectors. The incumbent works closely with the State of Alaska, the Coastal Alaska and Pacific Islands programs, and other external agencies and groups. The ability to respectfully work with cooperators towards a common mission is critical. Major responsibilities include planning, organizing, and directing long-term data collection in conjunction with the State of Alaska for the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Interior Alaska program.

Annual work includes managing the project budget to complete annual field data collection through a variety of agreements with multiple partners. This includes cost/benefit analyses, determination of methods to be used, timing, and logistics for deployment of field crews. Logistical, financial, and science driven coordination with other FIA teams, landowners, and other organizations or agencies is crucial to the success of this position. This position demands the ability to plan strategically over multiple timescales simultaneously. Excellent project tracking and regular follow-up/evaluation are required. Outstanding verbal and written communication skills with diverse audiences are a must, as the Coordinator will also lead outreach and community engagement efforts with project partners and small remote Alaskan communities to ensure successful field operations and assist with future data delivery.

The Coordinator will work with Land Managers, Research Scientists/Analysts internally and externally, and Quality Assurance Inspectors to investigate potential inventory improvement projects or special studies. Studies and surveys may be conducted to obtain information on the effects of land management operations, land use, natural disturbances, and climate change on indicators of forest health and tree species populations, biomass, growth, harvest, and mortality. The Coordinator will identify methodological, logistical, staffing, budgetary, or client challenges and develop or recommend mitigating actions.

Importantly, the incumbent will coordinate safety and health program implementation and leadership and is accountable for the safety and well-being of employees. They will identify and control hazardous conditions and procedures through mitigating actions as well as promptly prepare and submit injury and illness reports and assure that safety and health hazard analysis and emergency action plans are completed as required. Aviation safety plans are under the purview of the Coordinator with assistance from the Unit Aviation Officer.

Coastal Alaska Data Collection Coordinator (GS-0401-11):

The Coastal Data Collection Coordinator is part of the Anchorage-based Data Collection team and is a member of the teams' management. This position reports directly to the Alaska Data Collection Team Leader and directly supervises 6-12 professional and technical field staff. The incumbent works closely with a co-Coordinator on the Data Collection team, the Interior Alaska and Pacific Islands programs, and other external agencies and groups. The ability to respectfully work with a large team towards a common mission is critical. Major responsibilities include supervising, planning, organizing, and directing day-to-day data collection operations for the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Coastal Alaska program.

This position demands the ability to plan strategically over multiple timescales simultaneously. During the summer field season, logistics and field supervision will require the incumbent be based with the field crew on a research vessel or at other remote host bases directing day-to-day operations of a large field crew utilizing exclusive use aircraft for accessing field sites in remote areas of southeast and southcentral Alaska.

As a field Coordinator in Alaska, this position is responsible for managing an aviation and safety program for a large cadre of field employees. The Coordinator will also be responsible to receive training leading to certification as a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) for helping to manage government aviation contracts. Excellent project tracking skills and regular follow-up/evaluation are required. Outstanding verbal and written communication skills with diverse audiences are a must. The Coordinator will work with field Quality Assurance staff as well as internal and

external collaborators to identify methodological, logistical, staffing, budgetary, or client challenges and develop or recommend mitigating actions.

Crew Leader / Gear & Equipment Manager (GS-0401-07/09)

The incumbent will function as the gear manager for the Alaska, Hawaii, and Pacific Island Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) inventories. During the Alaska field season (generally May through September), 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. Outside of the required travel for fieldwork, this position is responsible for inventory, maintenance, record keeping, procurement, shipping, and other tasks associated with maintaining the Data Collection team's gear and equipment inventory, and must be physically present in Anchorage, AK in order to perform this element of the position. Attention to detail and clear communication with a variety of project participants and coordinators are essential skills.

The Alaska, Hawaii, and Pacific Islands inventories are conducted out of the Anchorage Forestry Science Lab and support up to 30 field going employees working on varied fieldwork timelines throughout the year. The majority of the work will be performed in an office environment, but up to four months per year will be spent in >75% travel status completing fieldwork around Alaska. This is a permanent seasonal position, meaning that a minimum number of two-week pay periods of work per year (about nine months) are guaranteed. Additional work may be possible upon mutual agreement with the employee if funding is available and there is a program need. The Alaska field season usually lasts about 9 pay periods, so the guaranteed pay periods of work includes approximately 9-11 additional pay periods of work in Anchorage. This position is career ladder with the full performance level at a GS-09.

Crew leader 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); understory vegetation (shrub, herb, grass species and percent cover); down woody material (line transects, litter depth, and fuels measurement); and site index and site attributes (site tree selection, slope, aspect, topographic position, distance to water). Crews use portable, handheld computers to collect data in the field and then process the data later to address any inconsistencies or errors. Duties also include daily documentation, downloading, and editing of field data.

Successful candidates will have a strong knowledge of safe and effective field gear required for fieldwork in Alaska and the Pacific Islands, strong organizational and communication skills, a positive customer service attitude and a strong work ethic, including ability to stay positive during periods of heavy demand. We seek individuals who possess the ability to plan ahead to manage workload, the ability manage multiple priorities and solve problems independently in a fast-paced work environment, and experience conducting ecological fieldwork in challenging terrain and a team environment.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Positions with FIA in Alaska are adventurous, challenging, and rewarding! In upcoming years, the Interior Alaska crew will be working in beautiful and remote Southwest Alaska, followed by the Lower and Upper Yukon River watersheds.

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. While these positions are not expected to spend a significant amount of time in the field, field work may be performed in inclement weather (cold, rain, snow), on steep, slippery, and/or brushy slopes, and in the presence of moose, bear, wolves, and biting insects. A significant amount of off-trail hiking is required during field visits. Employees must be capable of carrying a 45-pound pack; with pack weights occasionally exceeding 55 pounds during field visits.

Alaska crews regularly travel in small aircraft including helicopters. Additionally, employees carry a firearm for bear protection and are subject to a federal background investigation and pre-hire and random drug testing. Firearm training, practice, and certification is an annual mandatory safety requirement for all Alaska field staff. In Alaska's Interior unit, field accommodations often include remote group camp settings and rural hotels or lodges. Although attempts are made to honor special dietary preferences, accommodations may not be possible in all field operation settings.

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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