



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



Forest Inventory and Analysis (Interior Alaska Unit)  
Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program  
Pacific Northwest Research Station, Anchorage Alaska

Quality Assurance Inspector, Biological Scientist, GS-0401-07/09

Duty Station: Anchorage, AK or Fairbanks, AK  
(please specify on response form)

See OPM guidelines for wage information:

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

**PLEASE REPLY by 5pm AKST August 3, 2021**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION** send a completed outreach response form and your resume to:

Kate Legner (907-242-8716), Data Collection Coordinator, at ([kate.legner@usda.gov](mailto:kate.legner@usda.gov)) using the subject line "PNW-FIA 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 a position.*** Responses and resumes received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make these determinations.

**Interior Alaska Data Collection Quality Assurance Inspector (GS-0401-07/09):**

The Interior Alaska Quality Assurance Inspector (QA) reports directly to the Interior Alaska FIA Field Coordinator and will work closely with one additional Interior Alaska QA. This position is responsible for training and feedback to crews, field data accuracy, consistency and standardization, and correcting errors in field data collection. The QA possesses a strong understanding of FIA data collection protocols, is willing to assist with the pre-field training and certification process and has excellent written and oral communication skills for providing training and feedback to FIA field crews. The QA must be respectful of all crewpersons and keep a positive attitude under sometimes uncertain conditions during the field season. The incumbents will be responsible for helping to setup and arrange pre-field protocol trainings, performing daily folder checks of field data during the field season and for accomplishing Hot and Cold Checks in the field with other QA staff. As needed, this position will be responsible for leading crews of two to four people collecting field data as part of the Interior Alaska FIA Data Collection team.

The Interior Alaska unit covers most of the state excluding the Coastal unit in Southeast and South-Central Alaska. Interior Alaska FIA is being conducted in cooperation with the State of Alaska Division of Forestry, and the QA assigned to this unit is responsible for working with federal and state employees to ensure the quality of data collected meets the requirements of a joint venture agreement between the US Forest Service and the State of Alaska. The ability to respectfully work with cooperators in a mixed agency setting is highly important. The QA assigned in Interior Alaska may share duties as a resource helicopter manager, as needed. In addition, the Interior QA will be responsible for pre-season tasks including photo interpretation of remote sensing data, plot packet creation, map making, and training preparation. Post-season tasks include editing, organization, clean-up and loading of field collected data following the Alaska field season and assisting in writing summary reports and protocol revision.

## **ABOUT THE POSITIONS**

Positions with FIA in Alaska are adventurous, challenging, and rewarding! The terrain encountered while flying, hiking, and working can be immensely spectacular, but it can also be very physically and mentally challenging. Physical fitness, willingness to work long hours and live in close quarters, and flexibility to changing situations are key qualities for success. 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.

In Alaska, the inventory is divided into two units, Coastal and Interior. The Interior unit cooperates closely with the State of Alaska Division of Forestry to complete field inventory, and this Quality Assurance (QA) Inspector position would be one of two QAs for the Interior inventory unit responsible for assisting with training and QA of Division of Forestry field production. After a series of trainings and FIA certification, together lasting approximately 4 weeks in spring, the field season runs from May into September generally consists of a work schedule including 8-9 days in the field in Interior Alaska, working 8-12 hours per day, followed by 5-6 days off back in Anchorage. Pre- and post- season work would occur in Anchorage.

Interior 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 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 for these positions. Employees must carry a 45-pound pack daily; with pack weights occasionally exceeding 55 pounds.

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](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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