ABOUT THE POSITION

The Pacific Northwest Research Station’s (PNW) Anchorage Forestry Sciences Laboratory (AFSL) anticipates filling one (1) or more Alaska Data Collection Crew Leader positions with the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program based in Anchorage, AK. The AFSL FIA Data Collection team is divided into three regional units: Coastal Alaska, Interior Alaska, and Pacific Islands. This position is primarily responsible for leading 2 – 4 person field crews within the Coastal Alaska unit, but will also provide support as needed for other FIA projects in Interior Alaska, the Pacific Islands, and other regional FIA units. The incumbent may be required to carry a firearm for bear protection when in the field, and consequently is subject to a federal background investigation, as well as pre-hire and random drug testing. This is a 13/13 permanent seasonal position (PSE) consisting of 13 two-week pay periods of full-time work and 13 pay periods of non-pay status per year. Appointees may be offered to work longer depending on workload and funding. This position is a career ladder with the full performance level at GS-09.

The AFSL FIA Coastal Alaska unit is part of a nationwide program which collects, processes, analyzes, evaluates, and publishes comprehensive information on forest and other related renewable resources. 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 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.

Duties

This position is based from the Anchorage Forestry Sciences Lab, with a duty station in Anchorage, AK. The incumbent will function as Data Collection Crew Leader. This position reports directly to an FIA unit Data Collection Coordinator, and may supervise one or more employees or interns at the GS-06 level or below. The primary responsibilities of this position are leading data collection crews composed of seasonal staff in a field setting, training seasonal field staff on data collection protocol, supervising seasonal employees, participating in aviation operations, and collaborating with partners, stakeholders, and land owners.

Each year, approximately 1 month will be dedicated to training based in Anchorage, 2-3 months will be conducting field work based at various locations throughout Alaska (in coastal Alaska, this involves being stationed aboard a marine research vessel), and another 1-3 months will be conducting field work throughout other FIA data collection units. Field work involves backpacking, working in steep brushy terrain, often in cold/hot temperatures, and in rainy and inclement weather. The incumbent may be required to carry a 50lb pack daily when in the field. Excellent physical conditioning is absolutely essential. Part of this work may require working and living in tight quarters on a marine research vessel, in remote field camps, flying in small aircraft, traveling by skiff, potentially operating ATV’s, and carrying a firearm for bear protection. Candidates possessing aviation experience are desired.
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 in close quarters, and flexibility to changing situations are key qualities for success.

The community:
Anchorage is 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 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 site 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: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anchorage,_Alaska.

For more information about duties and work conditions of this position contact:
Dan Irvine, Coastal Alaska Data Collection Coordinator, Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program. Email: danielirvine@fs.fed.us. Phone: (907) 748-2096.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED in this position...
Please complete the attached response form and return with your resume (optional) to Dan Irvine (danielirvine@fs.fed.us) or by mail to Dan Irvine, 161 East 1st Ave, Door 8, Anchorage, AK 99501

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.

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).
OUTREACH NOTICE RESPONSE FORM

Biological Scientist
GS-0401-07/09

Alaska Data Collection Crew Leader
PNW Research Station, Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program
Forest Inventory and Analysis
Anchorage, Alaska

PLEASE REPLY BY November 28, 2016

If you are interested in this position and want to receive a notice when the Vacancy Announcement is posted, please complete this form and send it, along with a resume, to: Dan Irvine, danielirvine@fs.fed.us or mail to 161 East 1st Street, Door 8, Anchorage, AK, 99501. Electronic submissions are preferred. This position will be advertised on the OPM USAJobs website www.usajobs.gov.

NAME: _____________________________________________________________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________________________

MAILING ADDRESS: _________________________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _______________________________________________________________________

If you are currently employed by the Federal Government:

WHAT AGENCY ARE YOU EMPLOYED BY: ______________________________________

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: PERMANENT_____ TEMPORARY_____ TERM_____ OTHER______

OTHER Describe: _____________________________________________________________

If employed by the Forest Service:

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT/STATION? ___________________________________________

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: ___________________________________________________________

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: _______________________________________________________________

If you are not currently a Federal Employee:

CURRENT EMPLOYER: ____________________________________________________________________

Current Position: _______________________________________________________________________

Are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities?

☐ Former Peace Corps ☐ Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability
☐ Person with Disabilities ☐ Veteran’s Employment Opportunities Act of 1998
☐ Pathways Program ☐ Veteran’s Recruitment Act
☐ Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act of 2015 ☐ Reinstatement Eligibility
☐ Public Lands Corps Noncompetitive Hiring Authority ☐ Other_____________________________

More information on special authorities: https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/hiring-authorities/