



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest**



**Service**

**Employment Outreach Notice**

**Temporary (1039 hours) Forestry Technician (Research)**

**GS-0462-5/6 Alaska Data Collection Crew Member**

See OPM guidelines for wage information:

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

**Forest Monitoring and Assessment Program  
Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, Oregon  
Anchorage Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Anchorage, Alaska**

**PLEASE REPLY by July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

#### **ABOUT THE POSITIONS**

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. Although these positions could occasionally be involved in the Interior or Pacific Islands inventories, the primary focus will be implementation of the FIA inventory in the temperate rainforests of coastal Alaska.

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 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 float planes and helicopters, and occasionally use boats for field access. Successful completion of an underwater egress training is an annual expectation for all field staff working in Coastal Alaska. 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.

During the field season, living quarters can vary from remote camps to hotels to research vessels. In Coastal Alaska, the primary accommodations during the field season are based on a research vessel which can be cramped, with limited privacy and constant background noise from generators. Motion sickness is a problem for some employees. Although attempts are made to honor special dietary preferences, accommodations may not be possible in all field operation settings.

The Alaska field season usually lasts from May through August. After a series of trainings and FIA certification lasting 2-4 weeks based in Anchorage, the field season generally consists of a work schedule including 16 days in the field, working 8-14 hours per day, followed by 12 days off back in Anchorage. After the end of the Coastal Alaska field season, crews often complete their season with a 2 to 6-week detail working with FIA crews in Washington, California, or Oregon.

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.

The purpose of this outreach notice is to identify potential candidates for these positions.

#### **GS-0462-05/06 Crew Member (Temporary/1039 hours)**

These positions report directly to an FIA Crew Leader or Coordinator. The primary responsibilities of this position include photo interpretation, locating inventory plots in remote settings, measuring various forest and site attributes, and supporting the safety program. Field measurements taken by crews include: tree, sapling, and seedling data (species, diameter, height, defect, insect & disease identification, crown condition, damage, etc.); understory vegetation structure and composition assessments; down woody material measurements (line transects, litter depth, and fuels measurement, etc.); and site index and site attribute assessments (site tree selection, slope, aspect, topographic position, site description, etc.). Crews use portable, handheld computers to collect data in the field and then process the data later using laptops to address any inconsistencies or errors in field data collection. Duties include daily documentation, downloading, and editing of field data.

#### **For more information about duties and work conditions of this position contact:**

Vic Anderson, Coastal Alaska Data Collection Coordinator, Forest Monitoring and Assessment Program.  
Email: [daniel.anderson3@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.anderson3@usda.gov). Phone: (907) 317-6615.

#### **IF YOU'RE INTERESTED in this position...**

Please complete the attached response form and return with your resume (optional) to Vic Anderson ([daniel.anderson3@usda.gov](mailto:daniel.anderson3@usda.gov)) or by mail to Vic Anderson, AFSL, 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](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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