Job Posting

Job Title  Research Scientist 3
Job ID    1373
Location Grand Rapids
Full/Part Time Full-Time

Logo

MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Job Details

Job Class: Research Scientist 3

Working Title: Biometrician/Forest Modeler

Who May Apply: Open to all qualified job seekers
Date Posted: 12/09/2015
Closing Date: 01/19/2016
Hiring Agency/ Seniority Unit: Natural Resources
Division/Unit: Forestry
Work Shift/Work Hours: Day Shift
Days of Work: Monday - Friday
Travel Required: Yes
Salary Range: $28.29 - $42.08 /hourly; $59070 - $87863 /annually
Job Class Option: Forest Research
Classified Status: Classified

Job Summary

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This position exists to: 1) plan, design, develop and implement research in the technical areas of spatial and harvest schedule modeling; 2) provide scientific expertise and support to the division and the department on the proper multiple-use management of Minnesota’s forest ecosystems; 3) develop, assess and conduct statistically robust data analysis to address questions related to forest surveys, growth and yield information, and resource management activities; 4) develop, manage and report on
selected forest databases so that current and historical data is available to decision-makers; and 5) promote products and services available through the Resource Assessment Program.

An employee in this class is responsible for independently performing research and analysis work designed to test specific hypotheses or evaluate certain observations related to forest resource management. Responsibility extends to planning, designing, and developing methods and procedures for completing given research projects. Work is performed under general direction by the Research Project Supervisor and Division Management Team. Research priorities are not only set by the Supervisor and Team members but also by this researcher. Review is in terms of results achieved.

Plans, designs, and carries out research projects in order to test hypotheses or to make certain observations within forestry and natural resource management. Advises stakeholders, management, and field staff on problems of research procedures and techniques to ensure that current and valid techniques are used in conducting studies. Examines and evaluates research activities and reports to the Research Project Supervisor on results and recommendations. Prepares, and assists others in preparing, research reports for publication so that research findings can be shared with interested persons.

Occasional travel throughout Minnesota is required to attend meetings, complete field site visits, and participate in training.

**Qualifications**

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Grand Rapids Resource Assessment Office is the preferred location but St Paul Central Office may be considered.

Normal working hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. but are subject to change based on work needs; hours of work may include weekends, evenings and holidays.

*Bachelor of Science Degree or Master’s Degree in Forest Science/Management (or a closely related field of academic study) from a university program accredited by the Society of American Foresters, or comparable accrediting institution, or current Society of American Foresters Certified Forester status AND an advanced degree in forest mensuration or closely related field of study.

APPLICANTS MUST ALSO HAVE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

*Two years demonstrated operational research and analysis experience in the areas of stand yield, stand structure and growth, and distribution models that includes experimental and research techniques; procedures for planning, executing, evaluating and reporting controlled experimental research in the physical and social sciences; current literature on research activities relating forestry and natural resource management.

*Advanced knowledge of forestry that includes forest mensuration, inventory, biometrics/statistics, sampling, and modeling; utilization and marketing resource analysis; sampling design and computer programming operation and product generation.

*Knowledge and operational expertise in the use of RemSoft Spatial modeling and Analytics software or other forest management modeling software;

*Knowledge and experience in the use of statistical analysis software (e.g., SAS, R, Matlab, JMP, etc.) and Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS).

*Project management skills sufficient to oversee large projects, prioritize and make recommendations/decisions, meet priorities, define and achieve goals and objectives, monitor work, and follow-up on project goals and outcomes.

*Oral and written communication skills to effectively communicate complex information to a wide variety of audiences.

*Conflict resolution/human relation skills sufficient to negotiate, resolve issues, read situations
and settle disputes equitably by finding common ground and cooperation.

*Time management skills sufficient to make decisions and meet deadlines sometimes with incomplete information, under tight deadlines, and pressure by unforeseeable events and/or emergencies.

*Ability to coordinate multiple tasks simultaneously and manage frequent change, delays or unexpected events by adapting, recommending and/or developing appropriate alternative solutions.

*Collaborative skills to effectively work with and align stakeholders and staff through the application of a wide range of organizational, technical, analytical and interpersonal skills to accomplish common conservation objectives.

*Interpersonal and human relation skills sufficient to establish and maintain effective working relationships with internal and external customers.

*Leadership skills sufficient to lead and or participate as a member of a team to achieve goals.

Requires an unrestricted Class D Driver's License: a single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of less than 26,000 pounds. This is a basic driver's license. Operators may also tow vehicles/trailers as long as the gross combination weight does not exceed 26,000 pounds.

Preferred Qualifications:

*PhD in forest mensuration with operational research and analysis experience in the areas of stand yield, stand structure and growth, and distribution models.

*Working knowledge and operational expertise in industrial timber supply analysis using RemSoft Woodstock and Stanley spatial forest planning tools; mathematical optimization problem solving software like mosek; operational expertise using SAS and ArcGIS.

**Physical Requirements**

Requires occasionally lifting such articles as file boxes and heavy hand tools or heavier materials with help from others and/or lifting and carrying light objects frequently. Even though the weights being lifted may only be a negligible amount, a job is in this category may require walking or standing to a significant degree or may involve sitting most of the time with a degree of pushing and pulling of arm and/or leg controls.

**Application Details**

**Why Work For Us**

GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE! The State of Minnesota offers a comprehensive benefits package including low cost medical and dental insurance, employer paid life insurance, short and long term disability, pre-tax flexible spending accounts, retirement plan, tax-deferred compensation, generous vacation and sick leave, and 11 paid holidays each year.

**How to Apply**

Click “Apply” at the bottom of this page. If you are unable to apply online, please contact the job information line at 651.259.3637.
For additional information about the application process, go to [http://www.mn.gov/careers](http://www.mn.gov/careers).

**Contact**

If you have questions about the position, contact Dennis Kepler at [dennis.kepler@state.mn.us](mailto:dennis.kepler@state.mn.us) or 218.322.2512.

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The State of Minnesota is an equal opportunity, affirmative action, and veteran-friendly employer. We are committed to providing culturally responsive services to all Minnesotans. The State of Minnesota recognizes that a diverse workforce is essential and strongly encourages qualified women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans to apply.

We will make reasonable accommodations to all qualified applicants with disabilities. If you are an individual with a disability who needs assistance or cannot access the online job application system, please contact the job information line at 651.259.3637 or email [careers@state.mn.us](mailto:careers@state.mn.us). Please indicate what assistance you need.