**Outreach Notice**

**Forester**

**GS 460 5/7/9**

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**US Forest Service, Southern Research Station,**

**Forest Inventory & Analysis**

**Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky**

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**About the Position:** The Southern Research Station intends to advertise ten Forester positions to be located in the states of Louisiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Duty stations locales have not been finalized to date. The positions will be within Data Acquisition in the Southern Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Research Work Unit. The mission of the SRS FIA unit is to conduct a program of research to improve the understanding of southern forested ecosystems through inventories and analyses of the status and trends in resource conditions, use, productivity, and sustainability; and to conduct research to provide improved technology for timely and accurate resource inventories. The program conducts forest inventories on forestlands of all land ownerships. FIA is a multi-million dollar research program that provides comprehensive, timely, and accurate analyses of the changing forest resource situation in the South in collaboration with State Foresters from the 13 Southern States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

After a training period and successful field certification, the incumbent will be part of a two person crew that travel and work independently, measuring field plots across all land ownerships. The crew will be responsible for contacting landowners for access permission, interpretation of the field procedures manual, data accuracy, equipment, and safety. The crew uses maps, aerial photos, and GPS units to navigate to, and find plot locations. Some of the inventory measurements taken include:

- tree/sapling/seedling (species, diameter, length, defect, insect & disease, damage, etc)
- invasive vegetation (tree, shrub, herb, grass species and percent cover, etc.)
- site index and site attributes (site tree selection, slope, aspect, topographic position, distance to water, etc.)
- miscellaneous (GPS coordinates, standing dead tree measurements, mortality estimates, site disturbances, etc.)
- down woody material (line transects, litter depth, and fuels measurement, etc.)

For a more comprehensive look of items and measurements collected, you can go to the following website: [http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/data_acquisition/field_guide.shtml](http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/data_acquisition/field_guide.shtml)

**Work conditions are often arduous.** Work is performed throughout the year and often in inclement weather (cold, heat, rain, snow). Work is often performed on rugged, steep and/or brushy slopes; in thickly vegetated areas comprised of kudzu, greenbrier as well as other vines and shrubs; and in wetland areas that are prominent in the southern coastal Atlantic and Gulf regions. Significant amounts of on-trail and off-trail hiking are required, carrying the required field equipment to complete the work. **Excellent physical**
conditioning is a must. Some work involves the use of motor boats for transportation to the work area. The ability to swim is a must. Exposure to hazards such as poison oak/ivy, insects and reptiles is extremely common.

The southern region provides a wide diversity of ecological communities. For more information about the SRS FIA unit, you may go to the following website: http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/

The incumbent can expect to travel at least 25 to 50% during a given year that requires overnight travel¹; however, the amount of overnight travel may vary depending on state completion rates and areas being worked. Lodging is generally in motel/hotels, but on occasion backpacking/camping is required. On occasion, the field staff is required to work in other states in the region to fulfill the unit mission and/or other studies.

¹Upon starting the position, the incumbent should be prepared to incur overnight travel expenses before receiving their first paycheck (usually within 3 weeks of hire date) and before the first travel reimbursement can be processed (up to 3 to 4 weeks from hire date). If this will be a hardship for the incumbent, the hiring official and/or supervisor must be informed so contingencies can be planned to mitigate expenses.

Office locations will vary due to duty locations. Some locations may have a work-at-home agreement if suitable federal, state or local government offices are not available. A work-at-home agreement authorizes the incumbent to perform his or her office duties from their home with the assistance of the Forest Service in regards to office equipment and required utilities for high-speed internet connection, FAX and telephone. The incumbent is responsible for providing a secure and safe workplace within their home.

Salary Range: $31,315 to $61,678 depending on the selected applicant’s qualifications. The 2012 pay scale for GS 5, 7 and 9 can be viewed at the following website: http://archive.opm.gov/oca/12tables/pdf/RUS.pdf

Qualifications Required: Must be a U.S. citizen to apply, have appropriate college coursework, and/or commensurate experience in forestry. In addition to basic forestry qualifications, applications may be screened for several of the following knowledge, skills, and abilities which may include: External Relations, Communications, Interpersonal Relations, Knowledge of Forest Inventory and Analysis, and Knowledge of Research Methods and Processes.

College transcripts must be attached to the application to be considered. Veterans must also attach their DD214 to be considered.

For information about the proposed duty states please visit the following websites:

http://louisiana.gov/
http://www.tn.gov/
http://kentucky.gov/
For more information:  Contact either Kathy Tillman, Supervisory Forester, at (936) 569-7981 x 4002 or kmtillman@fs.fed.us in regards to Louisiana positions
Sarah Combs, Supervisory Forester, at (865) 862-2040 scombs@fs.fed.us in regards to Tennessee/Kentucky positions

This is just a pre-announcement. When the position is advertised, the announcement will be posted on the Office of Personnel Management web site: www.usajobs.opm.gov. The announcement will contain all of the information you need to apply for the position.
There are many factors as to how soon the announcement can be posted, but May-June 2013 would be proposed date for the announcement.

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Outreach Response Form
US Forest Service
Southern Research Station

I am interested in the position and will call the contact person, in addition to checking [http://www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) for the position announcement.

Position Title/Series/Grade: **Forester (0460) GS-5/7/9**

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<th>State Locations:</th>
<th>Location Preference (please check or rank)</th>
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<td>Louisiana</td>
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**Personal Information**

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**Most Current Federal Experience**

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Briefly state why you are interested in this position:

**Interested applicants should return this form to:**

Sarah J. Combs, Supervisory Forester  
E-mail: scombs@fs.fed.us  
Phone: (865)862-2040  Fax: (865)862-2048

If reply is by E-mail, please enter **FIA 460 Outreach Field** in the subject line. Thank you for your interest in employment with the Southern Research Station.

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