



Outreach Notice

Research Ecologist

GS-0408 12/13



Southern Research Station
Insects, Diseases, and Invasive Plants
United States Forest Service

Response Due: July 30, 2021 (EXTENDED TO AUGUST 19, 2021)

Summary of Our Mission:

This position is within the Insects, Diseases, and Invasive Plants Research Work Unit (RWU 4552) within Forest Service Research and Development, Southern Research Station (SRS). The mission of RWU 4552 is to provide the basic biological and ecological knowledge and innovative management strategies required for management and control of native and non-native insect pests, disease pathogens and invasive plants in changing forest ecosystems. RWU 4552 is housed within the Center for Forest Health and Disturbance, and conducts broad, cross-disciplinary, collaborative research within and outside of SRS to address problems related to all aspects of forest health and biotic and/or abiotic disturbances. This research portfolio has regional, national, and international scope.

About the Position:

The Southern Research Station (SRS) intends to advertise and fill one Research Ecologist position. RWU 4552 is headquartered in Athens, Georgia with personnel located in Asheville, NC, Stoneville, MS, and Pineville, LA. This position will serve as primary invasive plant liaison for State and Private Forestry in Pineville, Louisiana, representing RWU 4552's efforts in the western part of the Southern Region and will be located at the Alexandria Forestry Center in Pineville. This position will serve on the S-RISIT (Southern Region Invasive Species Issues Team) and liaise with Region 8, National Forest Systems. While this position will represent RWU 4552 in the western part of the Southern Region, work may be regional, national, and/or international in scope.

RWU 4552 encompasses three problem areas – (1) insects, (2) diseases, and (3) invasive plants. The scientist's research assignment in forest health is transdisciplinary with the primary focus on problem area 3, invasive plants. Plant communities are the foundation of forestlands, and the ecological interactions therein are influential when addressing all problem areas identified above. The scientist utilizes approaches from a broad toolkit to conduct integrative research addressing non-native, invasive plant species ecology, and to develop research-based recommendations to prevent, contain and mitigate non-native species invasion in Southern forest communities.

The scientist's focus is in two sub-areas of problem area 3: a. Prevention, detection, and characterization of invasive plant species; and, b. Invasive plant species control and management.

Within this assignment, the scientist assembles informal teams and collaboratively conducts research with university professors, state and federal agency professionals, partners, and stakeholders, in three primary areas: 1. Applied management of established and high-impact invasive plant species; 2. Prevention of new populations and species of non-native invasive plants; and, 3. Invasive species interactions and impacts in forested communities to include impacts on native arthropods and plants, and effects of abiotic factors such as disturbance and climate on invasive plant populations.

About the Location:

Pineville, LA is located within Rapides Parish, and the Alexandria Forestry Center includes personnel with Southern Research Station, Kisatchie National Forest, and State and Private Forestry – Forest Health Protection. Pineville is located

just across the Red River from the larger metropolitan area of Alexandria. Pineville has numerous parks and recreation areas, is home to Louisiana College, and the surrounding area offers many opportunities for outdoor recreation, fishing, and hunting. Pineville and Alexandria are near the geographic center of Louisiana. Alexandria is home to many annual festivals, including the northernmost recognition of Mardi Gras as an official holiday. There are many opportunities to enjoy cultural activities in the area, from multiple museums to performing arts such as the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Alexandria is home to Louisiana State University at Alexandria, and has an international airport.

Qualification Requirements:

Those who are interested must meet the qualification requirements for the GS-0408 series that is covered by the Professional and Scientific Positions standards. The OPM Qualification Standards Handbook Manual is available for the review at any federal personnel office OR on the Internet at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/#url=Overview>.

Additional Information: Please contact James T. Vogt, Program Manager, Southern Research Station, Insects, Diseases, and Invasive Plants at 865-978-0664 or james.t.vogt@usda.gov if you have any questions regarding this position.

How to Respond: Please respond directly within the outreach database at <https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com/?id=8C168D5DA47A4D059E9DFB74266E31EC> . Once the position is advertised, all responders who provide an email address will automatically receive the link to this position at www.usajobs.gov.