
Forest Inventory and Analysis Program

Rocky Mountain Research Station

USDA Forest Service



Issue Date: December 7, 2021

INTEREST ANNOUNCEMENT

Biological Scientist, GS-401-7/9 **FIA QA Inspector**

The USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, Ogden Utah, anticipates filling one Biological Scientist position in support of the field inventory Quality Assurance program.

Gunnison, Colorado **Boise, Idaho** **Big Timber, Billings, Bozeman or Columbus, Montana** **Laramie, Wyoming**

These positions will be advertised in the Biological Scientists (GS-401) series at the GS 7/9 levels. These are career permanent seasonal positions with an 18/8 work schedule consisting of at least 9 months of field and administrative work. The work schedule may exceed 9 months if funding and project work is available during the winter months.

The position in **Gunnison, Colorado** will have a full-time work schedule, not seasonal. Work in the winter months will consist of participation on national FIA teams, development of field protocol training materials and assisting the Field Training/QC Coordinator on projects.

The position serves as a member of the Interior West Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (IW FIA), headquartered in Ogden, Utah, which conducts forest resource inventories and forest health monitoring activities throughout the interior west states including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. For more information about the Program, please visit our internet site at www.fs.fed.us/rm/ogden/.

Incumbent develops and implements innovative and interactive training for field staff on standardized forest inventory protocols.

- Ensures data collection activities are consistent with regional and national guidelines
- Reviews and provides timely responses to questions regarding data collection protocol
- Contacting regional and national experts as necessary to ensure national consistency in data collection methods
- Evaluates quality of data collected to ensure standardized protocols are used and measurements are repeatable
- Provides data collection crews with valuable feedback to enhance overall data quality

- Works with information management staff to fix errors with data collection software
- Provides recommendations to Area Leaders and other inventory coordinators to improve data quality
- Implements cleanup of inventory data
 - Utilizes logic checks and subject matter expertise to identify errors
- Works with FIA researchers and analysts to determine the best data collection methods for pilot studies or new variables
- Assists analysts with interpretation of data as needed
- Participates on national FIA task teams to develop and implement forest and urban inventory protocols and information management systems and promote data collection consistency
- Develops, writes, and edits forest inventory protocols, collaboration with subject matter experts to ensure appropriate methodologies are used
- Works with interdisciplinary staff to manage and extract information from complex, local and national databases

The crew leader is not an official supervisor but does give day-to-day direction to the crew.

Fieldwork regularly includes extensive hiking and backpacking in remote and rugged areas, in all weather conditions, and carrying heavy daypacks (~45 lb.) or backpacks (60+ lb.). Depending on location, a variety of other methods are used to access plots including ATV's, horses, aircraft, and boats; please contact us for specifics of each location.

The area sampled by the RMRS Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program cover a diversity of ecological communities. Terrain varies from dry ponderosa pine, oak woodland and juniper forests at lower elevations and the southern portion of the 8-state territory (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming) ; to the high alpine forests of Colorado, Wyoming, and the Rocky Mountains; to the temperate rain forests of northern Idaho and northwestern Montana - and everything in between! Each crew covers a large area, and all staff will experience a wide variety of country.

Incumbent maintains expert knowledge of regional and Forest Inventory and Analysis program field procedures and data collection methods. Serves as data collection crew member or crew leader on occasion during the field season, ensuring safety, data quality, and efficiency. Locates field sites using written directions, aerial photographs, topographic maps, compass and GPS. Maintains professional knowledge of local urban forest botany and ecology in order to collect and inspect data on forest inventory attributes. Records all measurements utilizing a personal data recorder.

The field season typically runs from April through October. In all locations, overnight travel away from the duty station is frequent, and may include periods of extended and continuous travel. The ability to work productively as part of a team, meet the physical demands of this challenging outdoor work, and to quickly learn a complex set of field protocols are all very important in this position.

The positions will be supervised by the Field Training/QC Coordinator, Dana Lambert.

The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for these positions. The vacancy announcement for these positions, when open, will be posted at the USA Jobs website, the U.S. Government's official site for jobs and employment information: www.usajobs.gov

If you would enjoy working as part of the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, we encourage you to express your interest in the position(s) by **January 15, 2022**. If you reply to this outreach notice, we will notify you when the position is announced. For additional information, please contact Dana Lambert at (970) 596-3863 or dana.lambert@usda.gov

This outreach is for your information. If you are an education institution please post the Outreach to your Jobs Board.

Thank you for your interest in these positions!

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OUTREACH NOTICE RESPONSE FORM

Rocky Mountain Research Station
Forest Inventory and Analysis Program

Please complete this form and return it by January 15, 2022 to Dana Lambert dana.lambert@usda.gov

Quality Control Inspector
Biological Scientist GS-0401-7/9

Indicate the Duty Station(s) you are interested in:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gunnison, Colorado (Permanent Full Time) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bozeman, Montana (18/8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boise, Idaho (18/8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Columbus, Montana (18/8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big Timber, Montana (18/8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Laramie, Wyoming (18/8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Billings, Montana (18/8) | |

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

_____ **E-Mail:** _____

Are you currently a Federal employee: YES NO

If yes,

Current title/series/grade/location: _____

Type of appointment you are currently under _____

(e.g., Temporary, Career, Career-Conditional, Excepted-ANILCA, Excepted VRA, etc)

Do you qualify to apply under the Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act (information at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/lmwfa-applicant-qa-3-30-2016.pdf>)

Yes No