

OUTREACH NOTICE  
PERMANENT POSITION  
SOUTHERN REGION  
REGION 8, ATLANTA, GA

The Southern Region will be advertising a permanent GS-0440-13, Regional Geneticist position in the Forest Management and Timber Unit of the Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia.

The purpose of this outreach is to inform prospective applicants **of an upcoming opportunity** and to assess the level of interest in the position. We are looking to advertise the position in December 2019.

Please respond to the outreach by ***November 15, 2019***

The Forest Management and Timber Unit provides technical leadership and management direction to all forest products, silviculture and genetic resource programs designed to meet the public need and as prescribed by law, with specific responsibilities for the sale, harvest, reforestation, stand improvement, genetic resources and reporting of forest management program actions in the Southern Region.

**Duty Station:** The duty station will be at the Southern Regional Office, 1720 Peachtree Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA. 30309. Limited telework opportunity may be authorized.

**About the position**

The primary responsibility of the position is to provide expertise in genetics, technical guidance related to genetic applications, oversight of the regional seed orchards and seed bank, gene conservation of imperiled tree species, and planning/coordinating/recommending forest tree seed and source deployment for a diverse array of forest re-vegetation activities and objectives. The incumbent works closely with leadership to craft the annual program of work and budget. The work is strongly service-oriented towards applied genetics and serves the 14 national forests in the USFS Southern Region. The incumbent collaborates with other geneticists, silviculturists, botanists, forest health and protection specialists, researchers, the regional seed bank / extractory and state or private nurseries. Important issues are genetic diversity, tree species adaptation, disease and insect resistance, plant material collection, seed quality and identity, seed movement, seed deployment and climate change adaptation. Working with partners, researchers, and other external collaborators to strategically build the knowledge base and capacity of the R8 genetics program is a critical function of the position.

Duties include:

- Work with each seed orchards: visit annually, develop annual budgets, develop workplans, evaluate accomplishments, draft future work needs. Facilitate research, botany and Forest Health projects on the orchards.
- Coordinate cone & acorn collections on orchards & forests, per crop availability.
- Oversight management of regional seed inventory (e.g. sand, longleaf, shortleaf, slash, loblolly, pitch, white, Virginia, Table Mountain, pitch, etc.). Manage external seed sales to state agencies. Work with the National Seed Lab on seed testing.
- Oversight management of regional facility: cone extractory, seed processing & seed storage, on the Ashe facility, DeSoto NF, MS.
- Oversight on WCF seed account management, calculate & set yearly seed prices with ASC WCF seed account manager.
- Work with each Forest Silviculturist: 5-year seed needs for operational species, restoration of minor species.
- Work with the National Genetics Lab (NFGEL) on projects.
- Participate on Forest Reviews, Prescription School, Silviculture workshops, RO Climate Change committee.

#### **About the Southern Region Genetics Program**

- **Mission:** apply genetic principles to support silvicultural practices on all Southern Region National Forests.
- **Objectives:** 1/ seed orchard and seed bank management, 2/ provide seed in support of reforestation & restoration, 3/ tree conservation, 4/ partnerships.
- **Operations:** 1/ Manage & maintain seven seed orchards (3000 acres) to supply seed for reforestation & restoration. Twelve species of trees grown on the orchards (longleaf, shortleaf, loblolly, slash, VA pine, white pine, pitch pine, 4 varieties of oaks, Eastern hemlock, American chestnut, butternut, black cherry, dogwood). Botany: native plant seed beds being established.  
2/ Perpetuate genetic & biological diversity, attention to species specified in Forest Plans.  
3/ Maintain adequate seed supply used for reforestation/restoration, emphasis on longleaf & shortleaf pines.  
4/ Establish northern red & white oak seed production areas on NFs to support oak regeneration, partner with Silviculture and Research.  
5/ Conservation of minor non-commercial timber species: Table Mountain pine, Pond pine, Spruce pine, Carolina & Eastern hemlocks, Balsam & Fraser firs, Red Spruce, Atlantic White Cedar, American Chestnut, Chinquapin, Butternut, Dogwood, Black Walnut, Beech, 5 species Ash, Pitch pine. Establish conservation banks on the seed orchards.

## **Metropolitan Atlanta**

The Greater metro-Atlanta area spans 10 counties with approximately 5 million people. The population is diverse, with strong ethnic African, Hispanic, Asian and Eastern Indian communities. Cable television and radio networks broadcast in Spanish and multi-cultural newspapers are also available. Ethnic specialty stores can be found including food, and retail markets including business services. This was one of the strong selling points and one of the key deciding factors in successfully being selected as the Host City for the 1996 Olympic Games. A great place to live and work!

We've got a world of arts, culture and history, not to mention renowned restaurants, shops and malls. Here are just a few:

The Mercedes-Benz Stadium is home to the **Atlanta Falcons** football team and **United FC** soccer team and was the site of the 2000 and 2019 Super Bowl. The State Farm Arena is the home to the **Atlanta Hawks** basketball team and **Atlanta Thrashers** hockey team. It also hosts live concerts and shows. The **CNN studios** offer daily tours. SunTrust Park is home to the World Champion **Atlanta Braves** baseball team.

**Piedmont Park** - A 180-acre haven for walkers, joggers, roller skaters, roller bladers, picnickers, tennis and softball players. The Park plays a prominent role on the Fourth of July each year as the finish point for the **10K Peachtree Road Race** that host 50,000+ runners. A large portion of the park includes the **Atlanta Botanical Gardens** and its \$3.5 million Fuqua Conservatory, an oasis of exotic tropical plants from around the world.

Atlanta is becoming a Southern version of off-Broadway. Anchored by the Woodruff Arts Center, which includes the **Atlanta Symphony**, the **Alliance and Studio Theatres**, and the **High Museum of Art**, Midtown is the address of at least 10 other live performance theaters. One of them is the **Fabulous Fox**, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The **Fernbank Museum of Natural History** is the largest natural history museum in the Southeast and is one of the largest planetariums in the nation, which also houses the IMAX Theater.

**Chastain Memorial Park Amphitheater**. Open-air concertgoers dine in elegant fashion at picnic suppers before performances of the Atlanta Symphony or luminaries from the world of jazz and pop.

The world's largest mass of exposed granite with the world's largest bas-relief sculpture carved on its side - **Georgia's Stone Mountain Park**. The 200-acre park is a wonderland of outdoor recreation and family fun. Top attractions include 36 holes of championship golf, new 80-passenger skylift, spectacular summer laser light show, and the Road to Tara Museum, which has the largest permanent public exhibit of Gone with the Wind memorabilia.

Atlanta's **Cyclorama and Civil War Museum** is located in **Zoo Atlanta**. The **World of Coca-Cola**, the largest collection of Coca-Cola memorabilia in existence is adjacent to the **Atlanta Aquarium**. The African-American Panoramic Experience - **APEX** - offers local history, the annual **PGA BellSouth Classic** held at Sugarloaf golf course in Gwinnett County was designed by Greg Norman, **Carter Presidential Center**, **Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site**, **White Water**, **Six Flags Over Georgia**, and abundance of malls all over the metro area, luxurious rental houseboats on **Lake Lanier** - less than an hour north of Atlanta - - -and an hour south of Atlanta is the beautiful **Calloway Gardens**, and naturally we can't forget the hundreds of fairs and festivals every year that occur in Centennial Olympic Park, North Georgia Mountain communities to the east coast Georgia beaches of Jekyll and Cumberland Islands.

### **Educational Institutions**

There are numerous college and universities located within the metro area including Atlanta Technical Institute, Clark Atlanta University, Emory University, and University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Morris Brown College, Oglethorpe University, and Spelman College. Local schools offer either public or private educational opportunities for K-12. The metro area secondary school system represents some of the best schools in the State. **Note: A Real Plus**, if your children are approaching or currently attending High School, check out the **Georgia Hope Grant**, supported by the Georgia Lottery, for high school graduates maintaining a B average, college tuition is paid for residents attending statewide colleges.

### **Transportation**

Atlanta/Hartsfield International Airport, is one of the largest air transportation centers in the world, and the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority's (MARTA) rapid rail lines is a national-acclaimed public transportation, with 46 miles of track and 1,541 miles of feeder bus routes. This is a commute option with potential for reimbursement.

The local Cobb, DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties provide express buses from the suburban areas to downtown access to the Regional Office. **Note: This is a real plus** when you consider enrolling in the federal transit subsidy program that currently provides trip passes and tokens a month to offset your commute. This provides an environmentally and economical way to access work in the regional office.

Carpooling is another option available. Currently some regional staff have organized carpools, another environmentally and economical way to access work in the regional office. Commutes vary in time depending on your personal housing desires.

### **Housing**

Atlanta has it all! "In-town" or country living (just a short distance from downtown). Housing prices range from modest to millions! Generally you could expect to live approximately 26 miles away and have a 45-minute to 1-hour commute. Rental apartments are plentiful in the city and surrounding metro area with prices depending on location. Atlanta's cost of living is lower than many other major metropolitan areas

including Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Denver, Portland, OR, Orlando, FL., and Charlotte, NC. In addition, a **locality payment** is effective for Atlanta, GA. for federal employees with that duty station.

### **Medical**

A good selection of health care is available, including doctors, dentists, and specialists. A wide variety of home care, adult and children day care, nursing homes and mental health facilities are also available.

### **Churches**

Atlanta churches reflect the rich diversity of faith of its people. The Atlanta religious community exudes charm, with friendly faces and the spirit of community. The abundance of faiths and places of worship in the metro area makes it easy to find a place to meet your spiritual needs. For more information, check out the web site at [www.accessatlanta.com](http://www.accessatlanta.com) to gain an overview of what's current in the Atlanta area.

### **Contact**

We encourage you to express your interest in our position by sending the attached Outreach Response Form, to José Castro, Director of Forest Management at ([jose.v.castro@usda.gov](mailto:jose.v.castro@usda.gov)). Please respond by November 15, 2019.

For information about the position or technical questions, please contact acting Regional Geneticist Matt Horning at 404-347-7476 or [matt.horning@usda.gov](mailto:matt.horning@usda.gov).

# OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

Regional Geneticist  
GS-0440-13

Southern Region – Atlanta, GA  
Forest Management Timber Staff

Respond to José Castro [jose.v.castro@usda.gov](mailto:jose.v.castro@usda.gov), 404-347-7396

**By November 15, 2019**

**Position Title/Series/Grade:** Geneticist, GS-0440-13

**Duty Station:** Atlanta, Georgia

## PERSONAL INFORMATION:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

## WORK EXPERIENCE:

**Current title/series/grade/location:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Type of appointment you are currently under:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Are you currently a Federal employee?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Interest in receiving vacancy announcement?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_