



US Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Research Station



Position Outreach Notice
Research Ecologist, GS-0408-12

Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management Research Work Unit
Respond by November 19, 2021

The Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management Research Unit (SRS-4157) plans to advertise a position for a permanent, full-time Research Landscape Ecologist. The position will be filled at the GS-12 position (\$77,488-\$100,739 plus standard federal benefits). The Unit's mission is to advance knowledge and transfer technology and applications to foster resilient and adaptive ecosystems in the upland hardwood region of the southeastern and south-central United States. The Unit operates as a part of the SRS's Center for Forest Restoration and Management. More information about the Unit's research, cooperators, and personnel can be found at <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/uplandhardwood/>.

Primary Duties

The scientist will develop studies consistent with the mission of the Unit across the southern United States, with particular emphasis on the southern portion of the Central Hardwood Region. This includes research on hardwood, hardwood-pine, pine-hardwood, and spruce-fir forests as well as their associated wildlife. The scientist will work with other researchers in the Unit and the rest of the Southern Research Station, National Forest System, and collaborators in the academic community, state and federal agencies, tribes, forest industry, and non-governmental organizations to develop appropriate research initiatives for new work in these ecosystems.

The goals of the scientist's research are to understand natural landscape patterns and how they are affected by natural and anthropogenic processes, synthesize research from multiple disciplines to model the effects of various management practices and natural and anthropogenic disturbances across space and time, and develop decision-support tools for managers and policy makers. More specifically, the scientist will develop studies of spatial patterns of forests and wildlife across large landscapes and use existing techniques and models such as Landis-II to scale up site- and stand-level data to the landscape scale. The scientist will also develop new models and modeling approaches to study existing patterns and project future patterns. The scientist's research will incorporate silvicultural treatments, natural forest succession, and various disturbances including invasive species, disease, climate change, and fire to develop landscape models of forest change, species and forest restoration, and wildlife habitat. The

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scientist will develop a collaborative research program that addresses the needs of managers as well as addresses basic questions regarding landscape patterns and processes. A key component of the scientist's research program will include providing information and models that help land managers restore hardwood, hardwood-pine, and spruce-fir ecosystems and their associated wildlife across multiple spatial and temporal scales. The scientist should be able to use state-of-the-art tools such as GIS, remote sensing, spatial statistics, and spatial modeling to achieve these objectives as well as have knowledge and understanding of forest and wildlife ecology, and silvicultural and forest management practices.

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: Permanent full-time position

DUTY STATION: Knoxville, TN

TELEWORK ELIGIBILITY: Possible

WORK SCHEDULE: Full-time 40 hours per week

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Those who are interested must meet the qualification requirements for 0408 series for scientist positions. The OPM Qualification Standards Handbook Manual is available at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/>. **Current U.S. Citizenship is required for employment in this position with the USDA Forest Service.**

Conditions of Employment: Must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If selected, must submit proof of vaccination or request a religious or reasonable accommodation.

Knoxville, TN - Community Information

Knoxville is located approximately half-way between the Smokey Mountains to the east and the Cumberland Plateau to the west. It is the largest city in eastern Tennessee with a population of approximately 190,740 as of the 2020 census. It is the 3rd largest city in the state. Elevation is about 900 feet and is home to the University of Tennessee along with several other colleges and universities including Knoxville College, Johnson University, and Pellissippi State Community College. Oak Ridge National Laboratory is also nearby. The city boasts a symphony, theater, opera, art museums, and several opportunities to enjoy a lively music scene. It was designated within the top 50 cities to live by U.S. News and World Reports.

The area has four distinct seasons with high temperatures in the summer averaging in the 90s (average daily summer temperatures in upper 70's) and winter temperatures averaging in the 40s. Rainfall for the city is ~50 inches per year. Asheville is 2 hours away from Asheville, NC, 3 hours from Nashville, and ~ 3.5 hours from Atlanta.

Major employers in the area include the State of Tennessee, Pilot Flying J, the Department of Energy, and the University of Tennessee. Other USDA Forest Service offices in the area include the Southern Research Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis unit. Housing in the Knoxville comes in a variety of price ranges and styles. As of July 2021, the median house price was \$285,000.

The Knox County school system serves approximately 60,000 students in 94 schools and has the one of the highest concentrations of top ranked schools in Tennessee. There are several private primary and secondary schools in the area and one charter school. Knoxville is home to the University of Tennessee Medical Center and a number of other regional health centers.

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How to be Considered

The purpose of this outreach notification is to determine the potential applicant pool that may be interested in the position. Current Forest Service employees are encouraged to respond. If you wish, please include a brief narrative, or resume, describing your experience and/or qualifications for the position. Those interested will be sent a copy of the announcement with duties, qualifications required, and application instructions. Please respond by November 10, 2021.

Please complete the attached Outreach Response Form and submit to Susan.Loeb@usda.gov

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Non-Discrimination Statement

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Outreach Response Form
Research Landscape Ecologist, GS-408-12
Duty Station: Knoxville, TN

If you are interested in the position, complete this form and send it via email, by **November 10, 2021** to Susan.Loeb@usda.gov. If you are not a current Forest Service employee or do not have access to e-mail please complete this form and mail to: Dr. Susan Loeb, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service, 233 Lehotsky Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

EMPLOYMENT

Are you currently a Federal Employee? Yes No
If Yes:
Name of your Agency & Location: _____
Current title/series/ grade: _____
Type of Appointment: Permanent Term Temporary
If No:
Current Employer: _____
Current Position _____
Title: _____
Type of Appointment: Permanent Term Temporary

If you are not a current permanent federal (career or career conditional) employee, please indicate below if you are eligible for other appointments under any of the following special authorities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former Peace Corps/Vista Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Employment Opp. Act of 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Readjustment Act |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Employment Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement Eligibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Thank you for your interest!

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