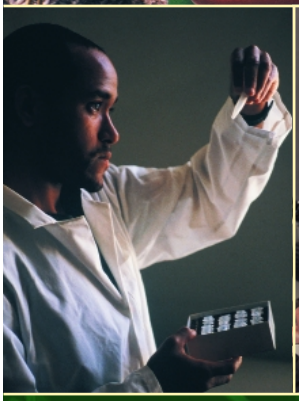
Research & Development

Scientist Recruitment Initiative

USDA FOREST SERVICE



Working for the Great Outdoors

The Scientist Recruitment Initiative and You

Our Scientist Recruitment Initiative is focused on students holding B.S. or M.S. degrees in disciplines that match Forest Service research needs. For us, it is a way to build a world-class team of scientists to meet the natural resource science challenges of the 21st century. For you, this is a fast track to the forefront of forestry and conservation science.

If you are selected for this initiative, you will benefit from a unique program of graduate studies tailored to give you the education and experience you will need for a specific scientist position. This is carried out through the Student Career Experience Program, in which you could be working with career scientists to:

- Pursue research in forest, grassland, and wetland ecosystems.
- Produce exciting results in our renowned Forest Products Laboratory and our nationwide network of research stations and institutes.
- Conduct cooperative research in university laboratories.

Students who successfully complete an approved graduate studies program may be hired into full-time positions as Forest Service research scientists.

USDA Forest Service Research & Development

We are the largest forestry research organization in the world and the national and international leader in forest conservation. As part of the Forest Service, the largest agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), our research contributes to the advancement of science and the conservation of many of our Nation's most valuable natural resources.

Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) scientists carry out basic and applied research to study biological, physical, and social sciences related to very diverse forests and rangelands. Public lands that make up the National Forest System comprise 1/20 of the entire land base in the United States. Our research promotes ecologically sound management of these vast natural resources. We also serve the Nation's private forest landowners, and we investigate new ways to process and recycle wood into products.

Our scientists work throughout the United States, from Florida to Alaska and from Maine to Hawaii. They perform research on university campuses, as well as in our own laboratories. Much of their research is outdoors, in forests and watersheds, on mountaintops and in grasslands.

Take Part in Meaningful Activities

Forest Service scientists work toward common goals, share ideas, and build upon each other's energy and commitment through basic and applied research in the laboratory and in the field. Our laboratories are often located on or near the campuses of major universities, allowing our scientists to work in an academic environment. They also participate in cooperative research and share the use of the most advanced research equipment. Forest Service scientists:

- Are devoted to understanding how trees grow
- Are devoted to understanding hydrology processes to ensure quality water
- Develop forest management practices that minimize disease and insect attack
- Work to ensure the survival of wildlife and fish
- Investigate more efficient ways of using wood
- Study fundamental processes of fire in ecosystems
- Focus research on human activities that affect natural resources
- Find ways to minimize the effects of road construction
- Study global climate changes and forest ecosystems
- Help developing nations through our Tropical Research Program

Many other professionals – physicists, entomologists, mathematicians, ecologists, botanists, plant pathologists, physiologists, geneticists, engineers, economists, foresters, wildlife and fisheries biologists, sociologists, chemists, meteorologists, range scientists, hydrologists, and geomorphologists – help us to accomplish our goals.

Student Career Experience Program

Who is eligible?
You must be enrolled in a graduate degree program.
You must be taking at least half-time course work.
You must be a U.S. citizen.

Is full-time employment a possibility after completing educational and work requirements?
Yes, it is Forest Service policy to hire students for permanent appointments after completion of educational and work requirements.

How long must a student be in the program before he/she can be hired as a full-time scientist?
You must work a minimum of 16 weeks or 640 hours to become eligible for permanent employment, but most students work considerably longer.

How would I go to school and work too?
There are three scheduling options available:
- Part-time work and concurrent education
- Alternating periods of full-time work and education
- Combination of part-time and full-time work

Are student employees eligible for benefits in the program?
- Yes, you earn vacation and sick leave in work status
- You are covered under the Federal Employee Retirement System
- You are eligible for health and life insurance coverage

Who pays for my schooling?
In addition to your salary while working, the Forest Service pays for tuition, associated fees, and books. Participants can be funded up to $25,000 per year for a combination of salary and educational costs.

How do I apply?
If you meet or have plans in place to meet the eligibility requirements above, contact the Forest Service today. Visit our Website at **http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs**, or contact one of the offices listed on the back cover of this brochure.

North Central Research Station
1992 Folwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
651-649-5020

Northeastern Research Station
11 Campus Boulevard
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4247

Pacific Northwest Research Station
333 SW 1st Avenue
P.O. Box 3890
Portland, OR 97208
503-808-2102

Pacific Southwest Research Experiment Station
West Annex Building
800 Buchanan Street
Albany, CA 94710-0011
510-559-6351

Rocky Mountain Research Station
2150 Centre Avenue
Building A
Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098
970-498-1161

Southern Research Station
200 Weaver Boulevard
P.O. Box 2680
Asheville, NC 28802
828-257-4380

Forest Products Laboratory
One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53705-2898
608-231-9279

International Institute of Tropical Forestry
P.O. Box 25000
Rio Piedras, PR 00928-5000
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http://www.fs.fed.us/research

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