

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

File Reference: 2023-6

Position Title: Research Associate II: Forestry Inventory and Analysis (FIA)

Location: Durango, Gunnison and Meeker, Colorado

Salary: \$50,000 - \$55,000, commensurate with experience

Employment Status: This full-time, regular appointment will be a Colorado State University Administrative Professional employee.

Closing Date: Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; however, applicants should submit all application materials by 11:59pm on March 17, 2023 for full consideration.

Job Summary:

With direct guidance of a Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Supervisory Forester and the indirect guidance of the FIA Program Manager within the Science and Data Division of the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), this research position will be autonomous, independent, and responsible for conducting forest inventory field work across multiple states as the leader and direct supervisor of a two or three-person research associate crew. The FIA Research Associate II is responsible for performing a variety of recurring and complex duties in support of both CSFS and the national US Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program.

The incumbent will conduct a variety of field measurements including, but not limited to, those involving tree/sapling/seedling data, vegetation diversity, fuel loading measurements, stand treatments and disturbances, land ownership, and soil and erosion data collection in collaboration with the United States Forest Service (USFS) FIA program. The incumbent will be required to become knowledgeable with scientific literature and technical bulletins related to natural resources, and be effective in written and verbal communication for non-technical and technical reports, professional and public meetings, and professional presentations. Using a variety of geographical information systems (GIS) software packages, FIA Research Associate II must be able to use their skills to analyze data, interpret results, and present findings related to both GIS and FIA databases.

The FIA Research Associate II is always expected to ensure safe working practices of themselves and their crew and be an advocate for productive team development. The FIA Research Associate II will administer performance ratings, assign work, and handle administrative tasks related to their crews. This person will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the crew vehicle and all crew supplies and equipment. The FIA Research Associate II will work closely with USFS FIA liaisons to meet production and quality benchmarks, including assisting and leading annual trainings for the certification of CSFS FIA personnel. The FIA Research Associate II is also responsible for making all private landowner contacts prior to accessing or crossing private property.

A person who fills the FIA Research Associate II position will operate 4-wheel drive vehicles, UTVs, ATVs, and occasionally horses, boats and snowmobiles to access various assigned plot locations in Colorado and the surrounding states. The FIA Research Associate II will be required to complete daily check-in safety procedures using GPS beacons. Road and plot navigation skills – including use of GIS software and datasets, topographical maps, aerial photos and GPS units- are a must for this position. Crews will use handheld data recorders to gather, encode, summarize, and upload collected field measurements to the USFS FIA database. Bi-weekly summary and progress reports will be submitted to both the FIA Program Manager and USFS FIA liaison. The FIA Research Associate II and their crews will be required to hike carrying at least 45-pound packs with all related field gear; pack weights can exceed 60 pounds. Crews work at elevations ranging from 3,500 to 14,000 feet when accessing permanent inventory plots. Crews will be expected to hike long distances to reach plot locations both on- and off-trail, and work on steep and or rough terrain. Crews will be working in sun, rain and snow, across the full range of temperatures which can change rapidly throughout the day. The FIA Research Associate II can expect to be in travel status, camping out and staying in hotels for varying lengths of time depending on plot location. A typical length of time in the field is five days, with trips lasting 10 or more days during a typical six to nine-month field season.

When possible and with general consultation with the FIA Program Manager and/or their FIA supervisory foresters, the FIA Research Associate II will be lead project managers while assisting other CSFS Field Office personnel within the following areas: forest management, outreach, and administration. The incumbent will be asked to analyze and interpret findings from technical and scientific reports, and be able to present summarized findings in a variety of public settings. This position is expected to assist CSFS Field Office staff with providing service, outreach, and education to landowners and cooperators/partners through written and verbal communication methods.

Required Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree (or greater) in Forestry, Forest Ecology, Botany, or a Natural Resources program option will be considered.
- Three years of field experience which must include:
- Six months of Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) field work and/or FIA Quality Assurance /Quality Control (QA/QC) inspections.
- Six months using FIA's MIDAS software and handheld data recorders (i.e. Allegro).
- Analytical and technical skills related to various GIS software packages and GIS databases, including importing shapefiles and buffering, clipping, intersecting layers.
- Analyzing and summarizing scientific and economic data for reports and presentations.
- Experience in road and backcountry navigation using topographical maps, aerial photos, and GPS units.
- Must have a valid driver's license or the ability to obtain a driver's license or access to a licensed driver by the employment start date.
- The successful candidate must be legally authorized to work in the United States before the employment start date; Colorado State Forest Service will not sponsor a visa for this position

To apply and for a complete position announcement, please review the following website:

<http://csfs.colostate.edu/employment/> . CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates.