Outreach Notice
USDA Forest Service
Southern Research Station

Research Scientist Position (Term) – Intensive Forest Management
Post Doctorate Research Biologist (GS-401-12)
SRS-4353; Duty Station: Aiken, South Carolina

The Center for Forested Watershed Research of the Southern Research Station (SRS-4353) plans to advertise a vacancy for a full-time, Research Biologist position. This is a term position with an initial appointment of 2 years; extension of appointment up to a total of four years is possible. The position will be filled at the GS-401-12 (salary ranges $76,721 to $99,741 per year) level, plus standard Federal benefits. The duty station is co-located at Forest Service - Savannah River facility, Aiken, SC. The mission of the Center is to conduct basic and applied research on the ecological functions and management of forested watersheds. The mission of the Forest Service, Savannah River is to support the management and policy objectives for the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site and to facilitate the National Environmental Research Park functions.

Duties
The scientist pursues applications of forest management prescriptions to increase the production of wood products and ecosystem services, and conducts research on the effects of the management prescriptions on plant productivity, plant community dynamics, soil biogeochemical processes and water resources. The position entails leadership in developing products and applications for intensive silvicultural practices. The scientist is the focal point for collaborative research on the Savannah River Site involving bioenergy production and the sustainability of intensive forest management prescriptions. The scientist pursues funding from other federal agencies and grant programs, the DOE, and private and academic sectors.

The scientist conducts research on forest productivity, which may include soil biogeochemical processes, water and nutrient cycling, and silvicultural systems. Field experiments are designed to address research questions, and empirical and process-based models are used to validate, scale and identify critical knowledge gaps. Objectives of the research may include 1) testing effects of soil nutrient and water availability on forest productivity, 2) verifying the potential of different species and management systems for production, and 3) characterizing nutrient uptake and efficiency by forest stands. Results are expected to provide information on controls over forest production potential across watershed, landscape or regional scales. Results will be presented at national and international scientific meetings and published in peer-reviewed, refereed, scientific journals.

Additionally, the scientist will be an active liaison with the other federal researchers, university faculties, the National Forest System, other federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, forest industry and non-industrial private forest landowners involved in improving forest management practices, to disseminate research findings and obtain guidance concerning candidate research that promotes scientific forestry.

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The scientist may also exercise full range of supervisory duties for a research support team, including a GS-7 and GS-6 Biological Science Technician which may constitute for five percent of the scientist’s time. The scientist will be responsible for all planning, management, and reporting related to research work at the Savannah River Forestry Lab and maintains an active liaison with cooperating partners, including the Department of Energy.

**Requirements**

The position requires: (1) a Ph.D. in forest management, forest soils, forest ecology, ecophysiology, soil science or related field; (2) experience conducting interdisciplinary research, including leading and working with a team of multiple investigators with various scientific backgrounds; and (3) excellent oral and written communication skills. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen. The anticipated starting date is July 1, 2020. The position is within the Forest Watershed Sciences Unit (SRS-4353) of the Southern Research Station.

**How to be considered**

The purpose of this outreach is to determine potential applicants who may be interested in the position. If you are interested in this position, please send the response sheet and resume to Ms. Thai Flores, USDA Forest Service, Center for Forested Wetlands Research, 3734 Hwy 402, Cordesville, SC 29434, U.S.A. or email Thai.Flores@usda.gov, by March 12, 2020. Those interested will be sent a copy of the announcement with application instructions. For more information, contact Dr. Carl C. Trettin at (843)336-5602 or email: carl.c.trettin@usda.gov.

It is anticipated that the vacancy announcement will be posted on OPM’s USA Jobs website (www.usajobs.opm.gov).

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The Forest Service provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application or outreach process, please notify Tina Bailey at 828-257-4323, email: tina.bailey@usda.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)720- 6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
About the Site

The USDA Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR) manages approximately 170,000 acres of natural resources on the Savannah River Site (SRS) under an interagency agreement and since the early 1950s. With over 70 employees, our diverse staff works in one of the following areas: Engineering and Environmental Services; Fire Management and Fleet; Natural Resources; Business Operations; Public Affairs; Research; and Safety.

About 90 percent of the SRS is covered by forest, which uniquely positions USFS-SR to help control nuisance animal populations; manage 65,000 acres for Red-cockaded Woodpecker habitat; complete over 20,000 acres of prescribed fire annually; maintain the SRS's secondary roads, boundary and wellness trails; and conduct applied research through a myriad of partnership arrangements. Employees gain experience equal to their counterparts on a national forest with the additional caveat of closely working with the Department of Energy (DOE) and site contractors. These opportunities provide not only an interesting and stimulating work environment but also add complexity to each job, helping to make the employee more competitive for career advancement.

Additionally, USFS-SR partners with the DOE, site contractors, and conservation organizations on annual events for wounded warriors and mobility impaired individuals, including the SRS Ultimate Turkey Hunt, Fishing Challenge and Deer Hunt.

The SRS is a DOE facility built during the 1950s to refine nuclear materials. While research is still conducted here, none of the nuclear reactors onsite are operational. It is a controlled access Federal facility requiring issued badges and potential vehicle searches. The SRS is not open to the public. Visit [www.fs.usda.gov/savannahriver](http://www.fs.usda.gov/savannahriver) for more information about USFS-SR, and visit [www.srs.gov](http://www.srs.gov) for more information about the SRS.

Local Area Information

USFS-SR is located in the Central Savannah River Area, which includes the cities of Aiken, S.C. (15 miles from USFS-SR) and Augusta, Ga. (20 miles from USFS-SR). The [2010 United States Census](https://www.census.gov) has the Central Savannah River Area’s total population at 709,433. Because the missions of the Site are international in scope, the local communities include people from all races and cultures. The average temperature is 65 degrees and average annual rainfall is 47.5 inches. Recreational opportunities abound in the area and include fishing, hunting, hiking, swimming, and biking. Atlanta, the Appalachian Mountains, and the Atlantic Ocean all offer excellent recreational opportunities, and are each only two – four hours away by car. The area is rich with Revolutionary War and Civil War historic sites.

The Aiken Area

Aiken is the seat of Aiken County and is known throughout the world for its top class equestrian races such as Aiken’s Triple Crown, Steeplechase and polo events. With 94 historic locations, Aiken is home to signature gardens such as Hopelands Gardens, a 14-acre estate with 100-year-old cedars, meandering trails and ponds; Hitchcock Woods, one of the largest urban forests in the nation with about 2,100 acres of forest habitat; several museums and venues for recreation, arts and entertainment; and myriad of annual events.
A past winner of the nationwide *All American City* competition, Aiken, is a full-service community with one hospital; two higher education institutions: [University of South Carolina-Aiken](http://www.ush.edu) and [Aiken Technical College](http://www.aiken.edu); and an award winning public school system. An influx of retirees and a continued passion for the equestrian sporting life are credited with making the Aiken area “the hottest real estate market in the state.” Aiken has the aesthetic beauty and charm of a small Southern city with a cosmopolitan flair.


**The Augusta Area**

Nestled along the banks of the Savannah River, Augusta is the second largest and oldest city in Georgia with a population of over 200,000. You will enjoy the historic charm of the classic South with its tree-lined streets and majestic antebellum mansions. Local attractions include the historic Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, Augusta Museum of History, Clarks Hill Lake, Enterprise Mill, Lake Olmstead Stadium, Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, The Morris Museum of Art, Sacred Heart Cultural Center, Riverwalk, and Woodrow Wilson’s boyhood home.

Columbia County neighbors Augusta and is the second largest metropolitan area in Georgia and includes Evans, Martinez, Grovetown, and Harlem. Columbia County is a fast growing suburban area with a diversified job market, premier school system, and economical land for the purpose of residential and commercial development.

Within the Augusta and surrounding areas there are five major hospitals, several universities, colleges, and technical schools, an orchestra, a minor league baseball team, and the Augusta Regional Airport. Concerts, plays and major events are enjoyed at the James Brown Arena, Bell Auditorium, Imperial Theatre, and Lady Antebellum Pavilion. The famous Masters Golf Tournament, high-speed power boat races and a major rodeo are also annually held in Augusta.

Outreach Response Form
Post Doctorate (Term) Research Biologist GS-401-12
Duty Station: Aiken, SC

If you are interested in this position, complete this form and send it via email, by March 12, 2020, to Thairath.Flores@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: Ms. Thai Flores, USDA Forest Service, 3734 Hwy 402, Cordesville, SC 29434.

Questions about this position may be directed to Dr. Carl C Trettin, carl.c.trettin@usda.gov or 843-336-5602.

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: 
Your title/series/grade: 

Type of Appointment: Permanent Term Temporary
If No: 
Current Employer: 
Current Position 
Title & Salary: 

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:

Former Peace Corps/Vista 
Volunteer Person with Disabilities 
Student Employment Program 
Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability 

Veteran’s Readjustment Act 
Reinstatement Eligibility 

Other:

Thank you for your interest

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