National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc. (NCASI)

Job Description

Position: **Principal Research Forest Biometrician**
Reports to: Director, Forestry Research, Southeastern U.S.
Work Week: Exempt position; Full-time
Revised: June 22, 2021
Location: Location is flexible, including the potential to work from home or a NCASI office with locations in Newberry, FL; Cary, NC; Anacortes, WA; and Corvallis, OR.

NCASI (www.ncasi.org) is an independent, non-profit, member-driven research institute that seeks to create credible scientific information required to address the environmental information needs of the forest products industry in North America. Established in 1943, NCASI is recognized as the leading source of reliable data on environmental issues affecting the forest sector and has nearly 100 Member Companies throughout Canada and the United States. With a staff of 60 technical professionals, NCASI conducts research, undertakes surveys, performs field measurements, and sponsors research by universities and others to document the environmental performance of industry facility operations and forest management, and to gain insight into opportunities for further improvement in meeting sustainability goals. NCASI is an equal opportunity employer.

NCASI is seeking an individual of high integrity to contribute to NCASI's Technical Studies Program activities addressing forest biometrics, with an emphasis on carbon and climate change-related issues.

Essential Job Functions:

1. Work collaboratively with NCASI staff and Member Companies to address technical information needs related to regulatory and policy issues affecting management of commercial timberlands and uses of forest-based products.
2. Lead the program of research and technical support on forest biometrics and economics. Work collaboratively with NCASI Member Companies and scientific peers in academia and government to address technical information needs related to the status and trends in U.S. timberlands and wood supplies, and to investigate implications of forest policy options.
3. Design and implementation of scientific investigations in the field of forest inventory and monitoring, modeling and assessment; communication with leading researchers and agency personnel involved in this field; monitoring and providing technical review and guidance to industry on proposed agency activities; participation in professional meetings and conferences; and presentation of findings to diverse stakeholder groups. Investigations will be designed and implemented in collaboration with NCASI scientists and engineers working in disciplines such as forest management, forest carbon, and life cycle assessment.
4. Read, absorb, and process complex technical information quickly, with the ability to communicate to Members and other stakeholders.

5. Travel and participate in field research which may at times include remote areas with difficult terrain.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Earned doctoral degree in forest biometrics, forest mensuration, forest economics, or a related field.
2. An earned master's degree in an appropriate scientific discipline and five or more years of experience in managing environmental research, which demonstrates increasing levels of personal leadership responsibility.
3. A record of scientific achievement as demonstrated by publications in the peer-reviewed literature and by professional service.
4. Highly effective oral and written communication skills.
5. Ability to travel on NCASI business, such as travel related to implementation of the Technical Studies Program and to support NCASI Member Companies and their trade associations.
6. Exhibit professional appearance and demeanor, a demonstrable ability to work effectively with others, evidence of a stable employment history, and evidence of organizational skills, professional presentation skills, and self-motivation.
7. Eligible for immediate employment in the U.S. and to travel internationally.

Strongly Preferred Qualifications:

1. Familiarity with forest inventory and monitoring methods and databases including the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) database; understanding of how to apply FIA data, including its use in economic and timber supply modeling; knowledge of the theory and principles of forest biometrics, forest economics, statistics, forest management, and related disciplines; and an understanding of forest carbon dynamics, forest products markets, and the forest products supply chain.
2. Demonstrated knowledge of computer programming languages including R; strong statistical skills including an understanding of sampling designs and methods; familiarity with remote sensing methods and data sources used to monitor forests and land uses.
3. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
4. A record of scientific achievement as demonstrated by publications and professional service.
5. Demonstrated ability to: (i) articulate research needs in the fields of forest monitoring and assessment; (ii) develop projects to meet those needs; (iii) obtain and manage external financial support; (iv) develop a budget and operate successfully within that budget; (v) prepare synthesis reports based on data and reports prepared by students, contractors, colleagues and others; (vi) manage large datasets; and (vii) manage and moderate meetings.
6. Demonstrated ability to discern industry research needs and to convert those needs into the development of clear, objective hypotheses for candidate projects.
7. Demonstrated ability to achieve results through collaboration with, and respect for, co-workers and funding partners.

8. Ability to successfully manage multiple priorities.
9. Evidence of a stable employment history, organizational skills, professional presentation skills, and self-motivation.
10. Experience in the forest products sector
11. Proficiency in the use of the Microsoft Office Suite of business software.

To apply, please submit your curriculum vitae electronically to: Dr. Erik B. Schilling, Director, Forestry Research, Southeastern U.S., NCASI, eschilling@ncasi.org. Review of applications will begin on July 30, 2021 and continue until the position is filled. The desired start date for the position is October 11, 2021. NCASI is an equal opportunity employer.