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

Job Description

Position: Senior Research Scientist

Reports to: Director, Forestry Research, Western U.S. and B.C.

Work Week: Exempt position; Full-time

Revised: March 22, 2024

Location: Location is flexible, in a NCASI office (Anacortes, WA; and Corvallis, OR), including the potential to work from home if located in Washington or Oregon.

Key Words: Forestry, forest carbon, remote sensing, geospatial analysis, forest inventory, forest sustainability, forest mensuration

Salary Range: \$69,534 - \$115,889 commensurate with skills and experience

Benefits Effective Immediately:

- Health Care Benefit Package (Medical, Dental, Vision, HSA w/ employer contribution)
- 401(k) plan with employer match
- Dependent Care FSA
- Life, Supplemental Life, Disability, and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance
- Identity Theft Protection
- Supplemental Accident and Critical Insurance Available
- Paid Vacation/Sick/Holiday

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 sector 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 50 technical professionals, NCASI conducts research, undertakes surveys, performs field measurements, and sponsors research by universities and others to document the environmental performance of forest management and facility operations, 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 carbon, with an emphasis in remote sensing and geospatial analysis.

Essential Job Functions:

1. Work collaboratively with NCASI staff, Member Companies, federal agencies, and others, to address technical information needs related to regulatory and policy issues affecting management of commercial timberlands and uses of forest-based products.

2. Work collaboratively with 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 implement scientific investigations in the fields of forest inventory and monitoring, modeling and assessment, remote sensing, and geospatial analysis. Investigations will be designed and implemented in collaboration with NCASI scientists and engineers, and external collaborators, working in disciplines such as forest carbon, remote sensing, geospatial analysis, ecology, hydrology, forest management, and climate change.
4. Communicate with leading researchers and agency personnel involved in these fields; monitor and provide technical review and guidance to Member Companies on proposed agency activities.
5. Participate in professional meetings and conferences, and present findings to diverse forest stakeholder groups.
6. Read, absorb, and process complex technical information quickly, with the ability to communicate this information to Members and other stakeholders.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Master's degree in forest management, forest carbon, remote sensing, geospatial analysis or a related field with experience in managing complex environmental research projects with a demonstrated ability to provide project leadership with 5 years of relevant technical experience.
2. Demonstrated ability to use mapping technologies (e.g. ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, or other web-based GIS applications) to evaluate spatial data describing forest structural characteristics.
3. Ability to manipulate and analyze landscape-scale remote sensing data (e.g., Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), satellite data).
4. A record of scientific achievement as demonstrated by publications in peer-reviewed literature and professional service.
5. Highly effective oral and written communication skills.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Eligible for immediate employment in the U.S.

Strongly Preferred Qualifications:

1. Doctoral degree in forest management, forest carbon, remote sensing, or geospatial analysis or a related field with experience in managing complex environmental research projects with a demonstrated ability to provide project leadership.

2. Knowledge of the principles of statistics, forest carbon accounting, geospatial analysis, remote sensing, forest management, data analytics, quantitative assessment of forest ecosystems, and related disciplines.
3. Familiarity with using forest inventory data for carbon accounting and spatial analysis.
4. Familiarity with processing, and analyzing remotely sensed data (e.g., LiDAR, Google Earth Engine layers).
5. Strong statistical skills including an understanding of sampling designs and methods; familiarity with remote sensing methods and data sources used to monitor forests and other land uses.
6. Demonstrated ability to articulate research needs in the fields of forest monitoring and assessment, develop projects to meet those needs, obtain and manage external financial support, prepare synthesis reports based on data and reports prepared by students, contractors, colleagues and others, manage large datasets, and lead meetings or technical discussions.
7. Demonstrated ability to discern forest sector research needs and to convert those needs into developing clear, objective hypotheses for candidate projects.
8. Demonstrated ability to achieve results through collaboration with, and respect for, co-workers and funding partners.
9. Ability to successfully manage multiple priorities.
10. Experience in the forest products sector, especially related to forest management in the Western U.S.
11. Proficiency in the use of the Microsoft Office Suite of business software.

To apply, please submit your curriculum vitae electronically to: Dr. Jake Verschuyf, Director, Forestry Research, Western U.S. & B.C., NCASI, jverschuyf@ncasi.org. Review of applications will begin on April 3, 2024, and continue until the position is filled. The desired start date for the position is October 1, 2024. NCASI is an equal opportunity employer.