



US Department of Agriculture  
**Forest Service**  
Southern Research Station



## Position Outreach Notice

### **Research Forester/Ecologist, GS-0460/0408-12**

Southern Pine Ecology and Management Research Work Unit

<https://srs.fs.usda.gov/4159/>

Duty Station: Nacogdoches, TX

The Southern Pine Ecology and Management Research Work Unit (RWU) (SRS-4159) of the Southern Research Station (SRS) plans to advertise a vacancy for a permanent, full-time, Research Forester/Research Ecologist position. The position will be filled at the GS-12 (\$77,488/yr to \$100,739/yr) level, plus standard Federal benefits. The duty station is the SRS Wildlife Habitat and Silviculture Lab on the Stephen F. Austin State University campus in Nacogdoches, TX. The lab currently houses researchers and support personnel from SRS-4159, Region 8, and other federal and state agencies, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The mission of this research unit is to develop the ecological and silvicultural theory and practice to restore, manage, and sustain southern pine-dominated ecosystems in the southern United States. The Unit operates as a part of the SRS's Center for Forest Restoration and Management under the broader Science Area of Resource Management and Use. Our web page (<https://srs.fs.usda.gov/4159/>) provides more information about the research unit.

#### **Duties**

The scientist develops studies consistent with the mission of SRS-4159 across the southern United States, with a particular emphasis on the upland forest ecosystems in the West Gulf Coastal Plain. This includes research on natural-origin and planted loblolly and shortleaf pine-dominated ecosystems; it may also include other projects on other southern pine ecosystems, including longleaf pine, as well as pine-hardwood or "mixedwood" forests across the region. The scientist will work with other researchers in SRS-4159 and the rest of the SRS, National Forest System staff, and collaborators in the academic community to develop appropriate research initiatives for new work in these pine- and pine-hardwood dominated ecosystems. More specifically, the scientist plans and conducts research on pine- and pine-hardwood-dominated ecosystems of the region, focusing on investigations related to the complex and complicated relationships among the overstory, environmental conditions, and the influences of other biotic and abiotic factors, including natural disturbances, management practices, and/or how wildlife can be influenced-or can influence-the forests of interest. The scientist will develop a research program focused on the diverse natural communities associated southern pine- and pine-hardwood-dominated ecosystems, which may include studies on community diversity, stand complexity, tree spatial patterns, size distributions, stand development, old-growth definition, understory dynamics, invasive species, fire frequency and ecosystem effects, competition, regeneration, herbivory, past land use, desired future

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conditions, community restoration, forest-water relations, and climate change, amongst other possibilities. In addition, the scientist will work with colleagues to better understand the impacts of conventional silviculture and restoration treatments on natural and planted forests and their various components and will contribute to the refinement of these treatments. It is expected that this work will require integrating spatial information across multiple scales using observational and experimental techniques and may also involve the development and testing of process-based models. Other research areas could include developing a better understanding of historical, present-day, and future fire regimes; local- to landscape-scale prescribed burning design and effectiveness; and the refinement of prescribed fire behavior in unrestored and restored pine- and pine-hardwood-dominated ecosystems.

This research program, which should address both basic and applied questions on the various components of southern pine- and pine-hardwood-dominated forests, falls within the scope of the unit's research mission and supports the goals of the SRS, Region 8 of the National Forest System, the Forest Service, and the USDA. This research should also support the needs of a diverse assemblage of agency collaborators, from the timber industry and the Southern Group of State Foresters to university partners, NGOs, other state and local agencies, and support efforts such as Shortleaf Pine Initiative. The full cycle of research will be required, including concept development, securing support, implementing studies, publication, and dissemination of the work. The scientist will have responsibilities for determining key aspects of the experimental design and will serve as an expert in the fields of ecological forest management, restoration, wildlife habitat management, and basic and applied ecology in the southern pine- and pine-hardwood-dominated forests. 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 research that promotes scientific forestry.

The scientist may also exercise the full range of supervisory duties for a Research Support Team and provide additional administrative support; these responsibilities will constitute 10% or less of the scientist's time. In addition to helping the Research Support Team with the operations of the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest located nearby, the successful applicant will also be an active contributor to the Experimental Forest Network (EFN) of the SRS, working with other Station scientists and staff to further develop this effort. This will include work to integrate the EFN into programs of study, the development of new approaches to networked research areas, and the expansion of collaboration and integration of EFN studies with colleagues within and outside of the SRS. The duties of the scientist may also involve activities related to the administration and governance of the EFN.

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: One permanent full-time position

DUTY STATION: Nacogdoches, TX

TELEWORK ELIGIBILITY: Possible

WORK SCHEDULE: Full-time 40 hours per week

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Those who are interested must meet the qualification requirements for the 0460 or 0408 series for scientist positions. The OPM Qualification Standards Handbook Manual is available at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/>. **Current U.S. Citizenship is required for employment in this position with the USDA Forest Service.**

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### **Community Information**

The city of Nacogdoches is located in Nacogdoches County in eastern Texas, 142 miles northeast of Houston, 164 miles southeast of Dallas, and 98 miles southwest of Shreveport, Louisiana. Texas's Gulf Shores can be reached in less than 3 hours. The international airports at Houston (2 hours) and Dallas (3 hours) are nearby, as are other national or regional airports. Nacogdoches, a city of 33,000 persons, is only 20 miles from Lufkin (35,000 people) in nearby Angelina County, and the two counties have a combined population of over 150,000 residents.

Nacogdoches is home to Stephen F. Austin State University, with more than 13,000 undergraduate and graduate (masters and doctoral) students enrolled. The Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture (<http://atcofa.sfasu.edu/>) has a diverse faculty with strengths in forestry, ecology, wildlife ecology, environmental science and spatial science, and offers the only forestry doctoral program in Texas. There are a number of other institutions of higher education within an hour of Nacogdoches, including Angelina College, UT-Tyler, Tyler Junior College, Panola College, Kilgore College, and LeTourneau University.

With unique dining opportunities, a variety of shopping choices, several golf courses, historic sites, museums and parks, and other amenities, it is not surprising that Nacogdoches was recently designated by Cities Journal as the top small city in Texas. The area is known for both large and small game hunting, with spring turkey hunting opportunities attracting enthusiasts from across the U.S. There are opportunities for fishing, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, camping, picnicking, and most other forms of outdoor recreation. Most religious denominations can be found locally. There are a variety of public and private options for K-12 education, and Nacogdoches has several hospitals and other medical care facilities. A range of housing types and prices are available across the area. More community information can be found on the internet: <https://www.visitnacogdoches.org/> and <https://www.nactx.us/>.

### **How to be Considered**

The purpose of this outreach notification is to determine the potential applicant pool that may be interested in the position. Current Forest Service employees are encouraged to respond. If interested, please complete the attached Outreach Response Form and send it to Dr. Don C. Bragg, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 3516 UAM, Monticello, AR 71656 or email it to [Don.C.Bragg@usda.gov](mailto:Don.C.Bragg@usda.gov) by July 10, 2021. If you wish, please include a brief narrative, or resume, describing your experience and/or qualifications for the position. Those interested will be sent a copy of the announcement with duties, qualifications required, and application instructions. We anticipate officially announcing the position in the near future, with an anticipated (and negotiable) starting date of after October 1, 2021. For more information, contact Dr. Bragg at (870) 308-0134.

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### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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# Outreach Response Form

## Research Forester/Research Ecologist, GS-0460/0408-12

*Duty Station: Nacogdoches, TX*

If you are interested in this position, complete this form and send it via email, by **July 10, 2021**, to [Don.C.Bragg@usda.gov](mailto:Don.C.Bragg@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: Dr. Don C. Bragg, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 3516 UAM, Monticello, AR 71656.

### **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: \_\_\_\_\_

Current 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:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former Peace Corps/Vista Volunteer      | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Employment Opp. Act of 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person with Disabilities                | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Readjustment Act            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Employment Program              | <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement Eligibility             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**Thank you for your interest!**

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