



USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position. Advanced Trainee Forester

Duration. 8 Month Fellowship (32 weeks): Starting July 2024 through February 2025 (dates are dependent upon the start date).

Location. US Forest Service Savannah River, New Ellenton, SC

Reports To. Timber Management Assistant and/or Sale Prep Forester

Job Overview

The advanced trainee forester receives training in more advanced skills, techniques and procedures by performing a variety of productive forestry work in support of broad functional activities for which foresters of a higher level have overall responsibility.

The Savannah River Site produces around 80,000 CCF of timber sales each year. Success in this program will lead to a well-rounded forester with a complete understanding of the unique timber sale process at Savannah River.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Perform professional forestry management work in assisting senior Foresters by participating in timber sale unit preparation and/or layout and timber sale administration activities;
- Assist with cruising of timber stands and marking timber in accordance with cruise plans and marking guides in preparation of timber sale;
- Assist with conducting examinations, surveys, and collection of data on assigned timber compartments and stands selected for cutting;
- Assist with timber sale contracts, ensuring that all contract provisions were enforced in accordance with contract objectives;
- Prepares tentative sales plans; and performs related preparation, timber stand improvement and reforestation duties.

Qualifications

- Ability to understand and apply basic principles, concepts and methodology of forestry.
- Knowledge and experience with fundamental timber measuring practices, cruise methods, and techniques.
- Familiarity with cruising and marking of timber in support of timber harvest activities.
- Ability to collect and compile field data for statistics, progress reports, inspection reports and/or special studies.
- Experience collecting data during field examination of forest stands.
- Experience summarizing and analyzing data, preparing maps, reporting findings, evaluating results, and making recommendations.



Minimum Requirements

- Completion of Bachelor of Science in Forestry or a related subject-matter field from an accredited college or university
 - Degree must have at least 30 semester hours in any combination of biological, physical, or mathematical sciences or engineering, of which at least 24 semester hours of course work were in forestry. The curriculum must have been sufficiently diversified to include courses in each of the following areas:
 - *Management of Renewable Resources*: silviculture, forest management operations, timber management, wildland fire science or fire management, utilization of forest resources, forest regulation, watershed management, and wildlife habitat management.
 - *Forest Biology*: dendrology, forest ecology, silvics, forest genetics, wood structure and properties, forest soils, forest entomology, and forest pathology.
 - *Forest Resource Measurements and Inventory*: forest biometrics, forest mensuration, forest valuation, statistical analysis of forest resource data, renewable natural resources inventories and analysis, and photogrammetry or remote sensing.
 - OR -- Combination of education and experience -- courses equivalent to a major in forestry, or at least 30 semester hours in any combination of biological, physical, or mathematical sciences or engineering, of which at least 24 semester hours were in forestry. The requirements for diversification of the 24 semester hours in forestry are the same as shown above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.
- Candidate must be physically capable to work in the field.
 - The work requires physical exertion such as walking over wet, uneven surfaces, bending, stooping, stretching, reaching or similar activities.
 - Work is performed in a forest environment in which temperature and weather extremes may be encountered, wildlife, including venomous snakes and stinging insects may be encountered; and where the terrain may be steep, uneven, and rocky and covered with thick vegetation.
- Ability to express thoughts both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to work independently or as part of a team with limited supervision.
- US citizenship or permanent residency. RAs must undergo a government background check if selected.
- Participation in US Forest Service Orientation Training scheduled for June 2023.