

## Job Description

### Forest Inventory & Analysis Interim Forester 1

Location: Knoxville, TN (or vicinity)

Salary: \$2,513- \$4,018/month

#### **Job Description:**

This position is with the Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF) Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program. This FIA unit is part of a nationwide U.S. Forest Service program that collects, processes, analyzes, evaluates, and publishes comprehensive information on forest resources. Field-based measurements occur on permanent plots located on a systematic grid across public and private ownership. FIA foresters collect data about tree growth, forest health parameters, invasive species cover, down dead woody material, silvicultural practices, natural disturbances, and land ownership.

The FIA Interim Forester works in a two-person crew and reports to the FIA Program Specialist. The FIA Interim Forester will primarily work from the Knoxville work station. Plots are located statewide, and applicants must be willing and able to travel to other parts of the state for hotel stays (3 nights/week) on an as-needed basis. FIA foresters must be willing to work in challenging terrain, travel to remote plot locations (sometimes overnight), and plan their work according to weather conditions. The work schedule has built-in flexibility during the Monday-Friday work week to accommodate weather-related impediments.

Data is collected to defined standards, and data quality is confirmed by the U.S. Forest Service. Standards of performance must be demonstrated annually to maintain data collection certification. The Forest FIA Specialist will provide training and support during the certification process. Loss of certification could result in job termination.

This job posting is for one FIA Interim Forester 1. This interim position may be occupied for up to two years. An applicant appointed to this position will be reclassified to Forester 2 after successful completion of a mandatory one-year training period. Interim Foresters may apply to one of the four FIA (Full) Forester positions as they become available.

#### **Minimum Qualifications:**

1. Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in forestry or similar natural resource curriculum that includes dendrology, forest measurements, silviculture, and forest management.



2. Possess and maintain a valid vehicle operator's license.

### **Specific Job Duties:**

#### **PLANNING**

1. Assist in locating permanent field plots with road navigation, interpreting maps and aerial photos, determining scale of aerial photos, running compass lines, chaining/pacing distances, and using GPS equipment.
2. Assist in determining ownership and obtaining permission from the owner to enter property where plots are located.

#### **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Measure and record forest inventory data (e.g., percent ground cover, tree diameter, tree height, tree vigor, tree status, fire fuel loading, etc).
2. Maintain a data quality standard set by U.S. Forest Service.
3. Complete FIA certification within one year of hire.

Anticipated start date: 03/16/2022

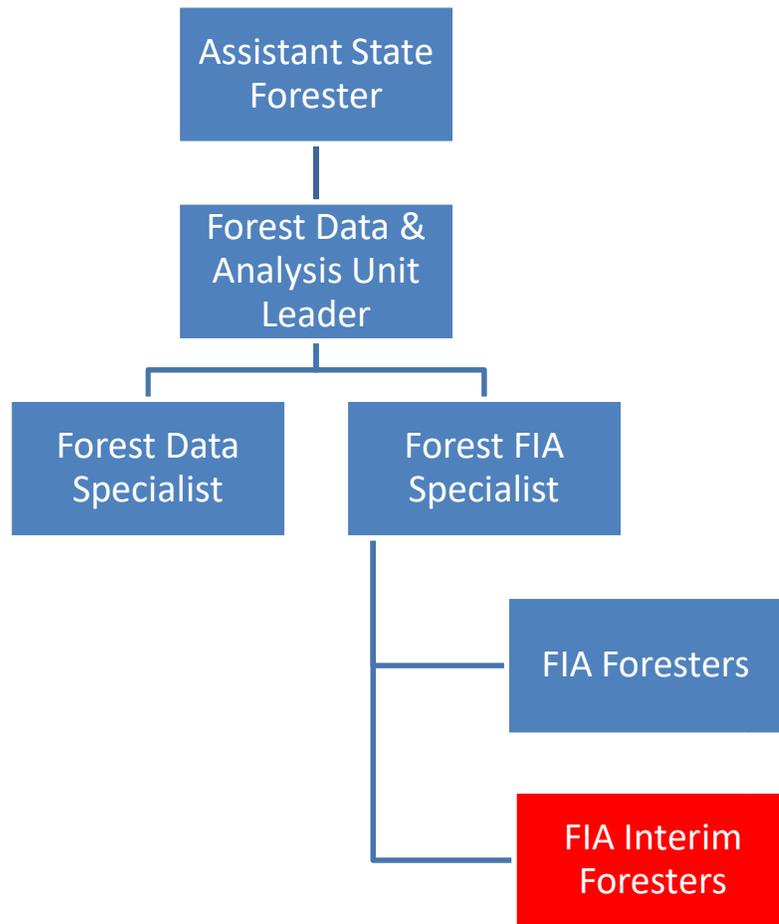
Accepting applications from Jan 6th to Jan 19th, 2022.

**Application link can be found on the Tennessee Division of Forestry's Careers page:**  
<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests/employment-opportunities.html>

For more information, please contact:

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**Organization:**



**Division Background**

The Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF) celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2014. One of the Division’s first missions was to plant trees on eroded and abandoned farm land in the western part of the state. Over the decades, TDF has grown to protect, conserve, and enhance Tennessee’s 14 million acres of forest land through forest health protection, rural and urban forest management, wildfire and prescribed fire management, water quality protection, forest business services, state forest management and conservation education. Today, TDF employs over 400 personnel statewide and is well known as the wildfire and forest health experts. The Division resides within the Tennessee Department of Agriculture whose mission is to promote wise uses of Tennessee’s agricultural and forest resources, to develop economic opportunities, and to ensure safe and dependable food, fuel, and fiber for all citizens.

**East Tennessee**

East Tennessee boasts some of the nation’s best and most beautiful mountain rivers, the Hiwassee and the Ocoee, that are destinations for white water rafters, kayakers, and fly

fishermen. The expansive Cherokee National Forest, the largest tract of public land in Tennessee, occupies nearly 630,000 acres in ten counties. East Tennessee is home to several state parks including Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Carved by wind and water, Cumberland Gap forms a major break in the Appalachian Mountain chain. The Park supports diverse flora and fauna including black bear, the endangered Indiana bat, the threatened blackside dace, and 59 state-listed rare plant species. Most of the forest is second and third growth Eastern hardwood and conifer mix, the result of timbering and farming over a 175-year period. The Park also hosts limestone caves. The largest city in East Tennessee is Knoxville. The city offers live music and concerts, annual festivals, and University of Tennessee football games at Neyland Stadium.