Dear Midwest Urban Foresters,

Please go to the link below and keyword search for “forestry insect disease” to find the job announcement for a Forest Health Specialist position with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Note that the position also manages the Urban and Community Forestry Program in the Central Region of the state (including the Twin Cities metro).

https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting

Jill

NR FORESTRY REGIONAL SPEC, Insect And Disease
$ 21.74-$ 31.99 hourly, $ 45,393-$ 66,795 annually

Date Posted: 12/13/2013
Closing Date: 01/13/2014
Hiring Agency: Natural Resources Dept
Division/Bureau: Forestry/Central Region
Location: St. Paul Region Hdqtrs
Who May Apply: Open to all qualified job seekers
Posting Number: 13DNR000865
Employment Conditions: Permanent, Full-time
Work Shift: Day Shift
Days of Work: Monday-Friday, 08:00 AM-04:30 PM
Travel Required: yes
Job Grouping: Environmental Sciences
Classified Status: Classified

Job Description: This position exists to manage the Forest Health Programs and the Urban and Community Forestry Programs in the Central Region.

Responsibilities include:

Collaborate with the State Forest Health Implementation Team to design, develop, and implement a comprehensive Minnesota Forest Health Program which offers training, materials, and assistance to Department of Natural Resources staff. Provide administrative and technical oversight of the Region Forest Health Program; develop and manage the Urban and Community Forestry Program; and design, coordinate and implement forest health surveys and assessments.

Develop, analyze and interpret forest health information and management strategies to ensure management and the public is informed through public presentations, radio, television, news articles and scientific publications. Develop and deliver educational/informational resources and publications to various audiences to integrate and implement ecosystem-based pest management practices and educate selective and proper use of pesticides. Coordinate training activities with other divisions and agencies.

Operational Support: Monitor the work of Forestry Area Staff. Develop and deliver educational programs/materials. Train natural resource staff in the administration and implementation of forestry programs.
Formal Training: Complete formal Division of Forestry classroom and field training sessions as assigned.

Frequent travel is required to implement the Forest Health Program across the entire Central Region, and at times statewide.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Science/Management (or a closely related natural science field of study) from a university program accredited by the Society of American Foresters, or comparable accrediting institution.

Two years advanced level professional experience equivalent to the NR Forestry Specialist SENIOR class - plan, direct staff, administer budget, administer and implement programs, consult, interact with other resource disciplines and train and educate; OR four years intermediate level professional experience equivalent to the NR Forestry Specialist, Intermediate class.

Ability to develop schedules, studies, research projects and work assignments sufficient to efficiently and effectively accomplish Forestry program objectives and implement forestry science.

Knowledge of entomology, plant pathology, plant physiology, forest management, biometry, weed science, ecology, pesticides and pesticide application technology sufficient to develop new techniques, conduct research projects design and interpret surveys and diagnose problems to devise viable management strategies and train forestry staff.

Knowledge of forest and forest pest management and protection principles sufficient to advocate practices and provide technical review of Division and Department plans, polices and projects.

Ability to administer program sufficient to manage, properly allocate limited resources and to direct activities.

Ability to train and teach sufficient to convey information in classrooms, field demonstrations, seminars, workshops and to DNR staff.

Human relations sufficient to direct, administer and train foresters and to lead personnel working in programs.

Oral and written communication skills sufficient to communicate complex concepts and principals to other resource professions and the public and make effective presentations to a wide variety of audiences by identifying their level of understanding and evoking a positive response.

Ability to prepare and edit high quality technical reports and management plans and research and interpretation scientific literature sufficient to solve problems, educate others and increase expertise in a specialty area.

Integrate information from scientific literature, historical data and past experiences sufficient to devise risk-rating systems and management guidelines.

Leadership skills sufficient to motivate people and obtain program commitment from division personnel and other Forest managers.

Ability to negotiate budget, staffing needs and equipment allocation sufficient to administer programs and train personnel.

Requires occasionally lifting such articles as file boxes and heavy hand tools or heavier materials with help from others and/or lifting and carrying light objects frequently. Even though the weights being lifted may only be a negligible amount, a job is in this category may require walking or standing to a significant degree or may involve sitting most of the time.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

Master’s degree in Plant Pathology, Plant Physiology or Entomology.

Advanced professional experience as an insect and disease specialist for a public or private organization
that includes advising other forestry professionals on specialty techniques, problems.

Must be qualified as a forest officer, or have the ability to become a forest officer within the next year, or when qualifying training is offered.

Knowledge of Department and Division policy, procedure and operating guidelines; State of Minnesota statutes pertaining to natural resources management; statistically sound survey techniques.

Successful completion of the Division of Forestry Entry Level Professional Forester Development Program; and a Leadership Development Program.

Broad range of experiences with all programs administered by the Division of Forestry statewide with an emphasis on the major field operations programs: 1) State Land Management; 2) Resource Protection with an emphasis on fire suppression and management; 3) Forest Resource Information and Analysis with an emphasis on FIM; and 4) Cooperative Forest Management.

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