# Employment Outreach Notice

## U.S. Department of Agriculture,

## Forest Service

## Forest Products Laboratory and Northern Research Station

This is a **Pre-Announcement Notice**.

The **Northern Research Station** (NRS) plans to advertise the following positions soon. Please circulate this outreach notice to as many potential candidates as possible; we are seeking a diverse pool of qualified applicants.

## Physical Scientist, GS-1301-11

One vacancy in Houghton, MI

About this Position

This position is located in Houghton, MI, as part of the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station. The employee performs a variety of recurring and complex professional work in a radiocarbon biogeochemistry laboratory in support of research studies. The position is responsible for managing a natural abundance radiocarbon laboratory that supports research into the carbon cycle.

*General duties:*

Ensures uncluttered and safe conditions in the laboratory. Maintains the laboratory in a condition that minimizes the potential for radiocarbon and other contamination and is suitable for operation of all instruments and associated equipment. Provides day-to-day supervision of technicians, students, contract employees, and/or volunteers who help clean glassware and plastic ware; prepare radiocarbon samples, densimetric soil organic matter separation, soil and water samples for spectroscopic analysis; and assists with other assignments that support the operation of the laboratory. Maintains detailed records of laboratory procedures, equipment or analytical changes, routine maintenance activities, and other similar, pertinent laboratory information. Creates and maintains electronic databases cataloging sample submission, analysis status, and analysis metrics.

*Technical duties:*

Independently operates, maintains, and troubleshoots specialized, complex equipment, including high-precision microbalances; hydrogen/oxygen torching equipment; high-vacuum fittings and systems; hydrogen reduction systems with pressure transducers and gauges, microfurnaces, and electronic data collection; backing and turbo vacuum pumping systems; high-speed centrifuges; sonification systems; Fourier transform infrared spectrometers; carbon and nitrogen analyzers. Prepares and mixes reagents, standards, eluents, and quality control check samples. Independently develops operational protocols to identify sources of contamination. Annually reviews techniques associated with field sample collection to identify potential problems.

This position is **permanent, full-time**, and is eligible for flexible work arrangements, but it is not a virtual position. Government housing is not available.

For additional information about this position, please contact:

**Houghton position**: Chris Swanston, 906-482-6303 x1320, [Christopher.Swanston@USDA.gov](mailto:Christopher.Swanston@USDA.gov)

About the Northern Research Station

The Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, serves a 20-state region composed of the Northeast and Midwest. The Station improves people’s lives and sustains natural resources through research and development. The Northern Research Station has more than 400 employees, including 134 scientists, at 24 field locations and 22 Experimental Forests. More information on the Northern Research Station is on our website: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/>

About the Community

**Houghton, MI**, located in the Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan, has a population of 7708. It is the county seat of Houghton County and home to Michigan Technological University, boasting an extensive curriculum including engineering, forestry, science, and business. Houghton offers extensive outdoor activities as it is surrounded by numerous inland lakes and streams. Its climate is cold winters and mild summers. Due to lake effect snow, Houghton sees an annual average of >200 inches of snowfall. Houghton is also listed as one of "The 100 Best Small Towns In America," by Norman Crampton. For additional info, visit <http://www.cityofhoughton.com/>

**OUTREACH NOTICE**

**Pre-Announcement**

**Northern Research Station**

PHYSICAL SCIENTIST, GS-1301-11

Locations: Houghton, MI (one vacancy)

Respond to:

Chris Swanston, 906-482-6303 x1320, [Christopher.Swanston@USDA.gov](mailto:Christopher.Swanston@USDA.gov)

**SUBMISSION OF THIS INFORMATION IS VOLUNTARY**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NAME: |  |
| MAILING ADDRESS: |  |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER: |  |

**AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: USFS**  **BLM**  **OTHER**

**TYPE OF APPOINTMENT *IF* CURRENT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE:**

**PERMANENT**  **TEMPORARY**  **TERM** **VRA**  **PWD**  **OTHER**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT  (IF APPLICABLE):** |  |
| **CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE  (IF APPLICABLE):** |  |
| **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** |  |
| **CURRENT POSITION TITLE:** |  |

**IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE, ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AUTHORITIES:**

**PERSON WITH DISABILITIES**

**VETERANS READJUSTMENT**

**DISABLED VETERANS WITH 30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY**

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998**

**FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER**

**STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM**

**OTHER**

**Thank you for your interest!**