The Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region is hiring a vegetation and fire ecologist (GS-408-11) for posting on the Cleveland National Forest. Duty station will be near San Diego, California. The position will join the Pacific SW Region Ecology Program and act as the associate province ecologist for the Southern California Province, which serves the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino National Forests. This is a term position of 2 years with a potential life-span of up to 4 years assuming continuation of funding and sufficient annual accomplishment and progress. The ecologist will focus primarily on development of a conservation strategy for montane forests in southern California and northern Baja California (~85% of effort), the remaining ~15% will be spent working with the lead Province Ecologist in southern California in providing ecological support to resource management on Forest Service lands in southern California, with a focus on the Cleveland and San Bernardino National Forests. The position will be directly supervised by the resource officer of the Cleveland National Forest, program of work will be developed in close cooperation with the province and regional ecologists and important stakeholders. Competitive candidates will have an advanced degree in ecology, up-to-date statistical and analytical skills, experience in vegetation and fire monitoring, excellent writing and oral communication skills, practice in working in team settings and supervising field crews, a track record in raising funds, and familiarity with the operations and business practices of the federal resource management agencies.

Southern California is the most biodiverse part of the United States and supports an amazing array of ecosystems, from the oceanside to chaparral and oak covered foothills, conifer forests, snowy mountain tops and desert. National Forests protect 3.5 million acres of this landscape. Southern California is also the home of 25 million people and the conservation and resource management challenges are enormous. Montane “sky island” forests support hundreds of species of plants and animals, many of them rare or endangered, and also host growing human communities and recreational use, heavy nitrogen and ozone inputs, expanding pests and pathogens, and progressively larger and more severe wildfires. Southern California is also the most rapidly warming part of the US. We invite smart, energetic, committed, and industrious individuals to help us to support sustainable national forest management in the region, and help lead the development of a conservation strategy that will guide efforts to protect and sustain southern California’s high elevation ecosystems.

We are currently in the outreach process for this position. If you are qualified and have interest, please access the USAJobs outreach notice for the position ([https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com?id=B30400072F1E437D8C741B44071E02B2](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffsoutreach.gdcii.com%2F%3Fid%3DB30400072F1E437D8C741B44071E02B2&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc674ffb95f25476b70ff08d8033945d3%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637262891799397483&sdata=2qGGbGnONmfnZg9IaneAUOROg9ft%2BTKRi0F9isrSdm8%3D&reserved=0)) and send the outreach response form to Jeff Heys at jeffrey.heys@usda.gov. Submitting the outreach form guarantees that you will be contacted when the position is advertised. For more information on the position, you can also contact Nicole Molinari at nicole.molinari@usda.gov or Hugh Safford at hugh.safford@usda.gov.