



OUTREACH NOTICE

RESEARCH SOCIAL SCIENTIST GS-0101-12/13

**USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station
St. Paul, MN or Evanston, IL**

December 27, 2022

Job Title: Research Social Scientist
Series and Grade: GS-0101-12/13

The USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station (NRS) <http://www.nrs.fs.usda.gov> anticipates advertising a *permanent, full-time GS-0101-12/13 Research Social Scientist* position. This position will be part of the social science research work unit (NRS-09): People and Their Environments: Social Science and Strategic Foresight Supporting Natural Resource Management and Policy. The position will be offered at either the GS-12 or GS-13 level commensurate with experience and include standard Federal benefits. Federal salary tables for the St. Paul metropolitan area are located [here](#) and the Evanston metropolitan area are located [here](#). The duty station is either: 1) the NRS building located on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota, or the NRS office located in Evanston, IL.

The mission of [NRS-09](#) is to conduct economic and social science research and provide information to enhance people's lives through improved land management, stewardship and policy. NRS-09 currently includes 7 research social scientists who are located in Evanston IL, and St. Paul, MN. The research unit's team of scientists has expertise across a range of disciplines including economics, psychology, sociology, operations research, and allied professional fields like strategic foresight, landscape architecture, and planning. Unit research is conducted within the NRS region of the 20 Midwestern and Northeastern states and in partnership with other Forest Service researchers, university scientists, managers and partners.

The Research Social Scientist position is broadly conceived as focusing on the human dimensions elements of natural resource management, conservation and stewardship. We welcome applicants from a diversity of backgrounds and experiences, including psychology, sociology, human dimensions of natural resources, geography, behavioral economics, strategic foresight, and planning. The incumbent works as both a principal investigator and team member to understand the interplay between peoples' values, attitudes, and actions and forest and grassland ecosystem conditions. The scientist will develop a program of research that fits within the three research problem areas of NRS09:

Attaining Preferred Futures: Planning and Collaborative Conservation, Enhancing the Flow of Goods and Services while Protecting Forests and Natural Areas, and Understanding Social Drivers and Impacts of Disturbances, Natural Disasters, and Other Landscape Change.

The scientist works on numerous lines of inquiry with primary responsibility to define the research objective, determine the research approach, and delineate ways to resolve complexities and ambiguities, and incorporate scientific literature from appropriate disciplines. The scientist focuses on research that emphasizes the pairing of social, economic, and ecological systems across the urban to rural gradient, utilizing appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods. Research methods may include the design and application of qualitative data collection techniques such as interviews and focus groups, non-market valuation techniques, social survey choice modeling, behavioral experiments, demographic analysis or geo-spatial analyses. The complexity of problems may require advanced knowledge of multivariate analytical techniques such as linear and nonlinear regression methods, hierarchical linear modeling, latent variable structural equation modeling, agent-based modeling, and/or structural equation modeling. The incumbent is responsible, in consultation with the Project Leader, for final decisions on the appropriate research approach, rigorous analysis of the data, and developing appropriate means to transfer knowledge to scientists, managers, stakeholders, and citizens.

LOCATION INFORMATION

St. Paul, MN

Saint Paul is the capital and the second most populous city in the state of Minnesota. As of the 2020 census, the city population was 311,527. Saint Paul and the adjacent city of Minneapolis (population 429,954 in 2020) form the core of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Mississippi River runs through the city of St. Paul, and forms a municipal boundary on the city's west, southwest and southeast sides. The main airport in the region is Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) located about 25 minutes from downtown St. Paul. The Twin Cities area offers comfortable urban and suburban living, world class performing arts and entertainment, history and hospitality. The area is home to professional football, baseball, basketball, soccer, and hockey teams. It is rich in natural amenities such as parks, lakes and recreational trails.

Educational Opportunities – Saint Paul supports a robust network of publicly-funded primary and secondary schools. It is also home to three private secondary prep-schools, three public and eight private colleges and universities, and five post-secondary institutions. Well-known colleges and universities include: the University of Minnesota, the College of Saint Catherine, Macalester College, and the University of St. Thomas. The St. Paul Public Schools serve approximately 33,000 K-12 students (2022-2023 school year).

Arts & Entertainment – The Twin Cities area is considered the capital for the arts in the Upper Midwest. There are more theatre seats per capita than in any other American city, besides New York City. St. Paul is home to the annual Minnesota State Fair (aka The Great Minnesota Get Together). The Mall of America, a popular shopping venue, is a 30 minute drive from downtown. Outdoor recreation opportunities are abundant in both

winter (skiing, snow-shoeing, ice fishing and snowmobiling) and summer (biking, hiking, boating).

Health & Human Services – The Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area is well served by the health care providers. St. Paul’s Regions Hospital a leading, full-service, private hospital provides outstanding medical care. Minneapolis has five hospitals, three ranked among America’s best by U.S. News & World Report. Minnesota’s children’s hospital is the sixth-largest children’s health care organization in the U.S., with two hospital campuses—in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota is a 75-minute drive away. Minnesota’s health care sector is the second largest employer in the state, with 80,000 full-time equivalent employees in 170 hospitals.

Learn more about St. Paul [here](#) and Minneapolis [here](#).

Evanston, IL

Evanston is located 13 miles north of Chicago and, as of 2020, was home to approximately 78,110 people. Although a short distance from the major metropolitan area of Chicago, it offers a close-knit community focused on sustainability and livability. Evanston offers abundant public lakefront recreational opportunities, including 5 public beaches on Lake Michigan and 268 acres of park area. Evanston is a short distance from two international airports in Chicago, O’Hare and Midway. The city is served by an extensive public transit system including commuter rail service to the Chicago-land area and a well-connected bus system. Chicago is the most populous city in Illinois and the 3rd most populous city in the U.S. with an estimated population of 2.7 million people. Chicago is an international hub of arts, sports, education, and business, and is home to professional baseball, football, basketball, hockey and soccer.

Educational Opportunities – Evanston supports a robust network of publicly-funded primary and secondary schools. It is also home to eight private primary and secondary schools, as well as Northwestern University and Oakton Community College.

The Evanston/Skokie Consolidated School District serves approximately 7,200 preK-8 students (2022–23 school year), while the Evanston Township High School serves approximately 3,700 students (2022–23 school year).

Arts & Entertainment – Indoor and outdoor farmer’s markets and movies and concerts in city parks are some of the family-oriented amenities offered in Evanston. A diversity of theater troupes make their home in Evanston, including a circus arts training and performance center, a children’s theater, a Gilbert and Sullivan troupe, myriad offerings through the Northwestern University performing arts program, and theater dedicated to the African American and Africa-Diaspora experience. Evanston also hosts an annual World Arts and Music Festival. Chicago offers a wealth of theater offerings as well as world class museums, including the Adler Planetarium, Art Institute of Chicago, Field Museum, and the National Museum of Mexican Art.

Health & Human Services – The Evanston area is well served by the health care providers. Evanston Hospital is a leading, full-service hospital offering a variety of surgical specialties and a Level 1 Trauma Center. The Northwestern Memorial Hospital, close by in Chicago, is the top-ranked hospital in Illinois by US News and World Report.

Learn more about Evanston [here](#) and Chicago [here](#).

How to apply:

The vacancy announcement for this position will be posted in the near future on the U.S. Government's official website for employment opportunities at www.usajobs.gov. All persons indicating an interest in applying for this position will be notified when the position is posted. Those who wish to be considered for this position must apply to the vacancy announcement and upload all required documentation, including transcripts and eligibility for special authority hiring, as appropriate. All applicants who have applied to the announcement and are found to be qualified and in the quality group will be referred for consideration.

If you are interested in this position, please fill out and email the attached outreach form to Dr. Stephanie A. Snyder, Hiring Manager (stephanie.a.snyder@usda.gov). Returning the form is not a requirement for consideration, but it is a way for us to alert you when the announcement is posted and open for application on USAJobs (<http://www.usajobs.gov>).

Please complete the form below and return it **by January 27, 2023**

**To be considered, applicants must be a U.S. citizen.
Thank you for your interest in this position.**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: The USDA Forest Service provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please contact the point of contact listed above. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

USDA Forest Service
Northern Research Station

RESEARCH SOCIAL SCIENTIST, GS-0101-12/13
Location: St. Paul, MN or Evanston, IL

**Please Return this Form to Dr. Stephanie Snyder (stephanie.a.snyder@usda.gov),
by January 27, 2023**

I am interested in this position and will check <http://www.usajobs.gov> for the announcement.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name:		Date:	
Address:		Phone:	
Email:			
Are you currently a Federal employee?	Yes:		No:
If you are a Federal employee...			
Enter your title/series/grade/location:			
Enter the type of appointment you are currently under (e.g., Career, Career-conditional, Excepted-ANILCA, Excepted VRA, etc.):			

Briefly state why you are interested in this position:

Thank you for your interest in our vacancy