



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

10th Annual International Junior Foresters' Competition

Mid-September, 2013, Moscow and Khanti-Mansyisk, Russia

Deadline for Applications: July 15, 2013

Background:

The US Forest Service (USFS) and the Russian Federal Forestry Agency (RFFA) have been collaborating for over 50 years on research, technical cooperation, and policy issues. Like the U.S., Russia contains temperate and boreal forests. The forests share similar species, similar forest health problems, and some common threats. In addition, both countries benefit from exchanging lessons learned through their extensive experiences in forest research and management. The current focus of collaboration between the two agencies focuses on mutually important themes such as: forest inventory and monitoring, wildfire management, illegal logging, climate change, and others.

The Junior Foresters' Competition is an annual event hosted by RFFA, which brings together youth from nations around the world to promote and reward young scientists for their interest and efforts in the environmental field and to encourage international dialogue concerning forestry issues. The overall goals of the competition are:

- to encourage cooperation among young people of different countries;
- to develop students' environmental awareness;
- to share students' knowledge and practical experience in forest management and environmental science;
- to attract students' attention to global forest issues; and
- to encourage student initiatives which will broaden their knowledge and promote skills development in forest ecology, silviculture and forest protection, forest treatment and regeneration, and training, education and vocational guidance in the fields of forestry and environmental management.

Competition Details:

This year's competition will take place in mid-September. Participants will spend 1-2 days in Moscow for sightseeing and collaborative activities with other students from around the world. They will then fly from Moscow to Khanti-Mansyisk, a forested region in Central Russia, for field trips and the actual competition. Detailed information about the competition requirements and an application form are attached.

US Forest Service International Programs will provide 1-2 scholarships to cover international travel for qualified applicants. To compete for these scholarships, the deadline for



submission of projects to the US Forest Service International Programs office is **July 15th, 2013**. A USFS panel will review and select **one project** (up to two participants per project are welcome) that best fits the guidelines outlined by RFFA. USFS International Programs will submit the chosen project to the competition organizers on behalf of the applicant(s).

The author(s) of the chosen project will travel to Russia in September 2013 to defend their project in the competition. The competition participants will be accompanied by a representative from USFS International Programs who is familiar with forestry issues in Russia and has traveled extensively in the country.

Expenses:

USFS International Programs will cover the international travel costs for selected competition contestants (one or two individuals representing one project), and the Russian Federal Forestry Agency will cover costs for meals, lodging, and ground transportation while the contestants are in Russia. Contestants will need to cover any additional costs themselves (cultural activities, souvenirs, project supplies, etc.)

Contact:

The official details of the competition (dates, exact location and schedule, etc.) will be announced by the Russian Federal Forestry Agency in June or July, 2013. If you are planning to apply, please contact Jennifer Smith (see below) to learn those details and find out if there have been any changes to the application process.

Please submit completed applications, resumes, and project descriptions to Jennifer Smith at the USFS International Programs office by July 15th, 2013. You may also contact Jennifer with any questions or concerns. Email: (jennifercsmith@fs.fed.us). Phone: 202-677-2085.