



USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position. Forest Ecologist Fellow

Duration. 8 Month Fellowship: Starting February 2023 - September 2023 (dates are dependent upon the start date)

Location. USDA Forest Service, PNW Research Station, Corvallis Forestry Sciences Laboratory, 3200 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR 97331. Field work will be conducted at two or more Experimental Forests in Oregon.

Reports To. The Forest Ecologist Fellow will report to Dr. Todd Wilson, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Corvallis Forestry Sciences Laboratory.

Job Overview

The Resource Assistant will participate as a member of a small team collecting, organizing, verifying and summarizing data for research studies assessing the effects of forest management activities on biological, ecological, and physical processes of forest ecosystems – ponderosa pine forests in central Oregon and Douglas-fir/Hemlock forests of the west Cascades. The research studies focus on vegetation dynamics of live and dead trees, shrubs, and herbs. Working from established study plans and data collection protocols, the Resource Assistant will be expected to make accurate measures and assessments of species, size, quality, cover or counts. The work will draw upon the Assistant's basic knowledge of forestry, botany, and ecology to collect data. Secondly, the Resource Assistant may be called upon periodically to assist researchers performing wildlife studies. Success in the position will result in an expanded understanding of concepts and underlying principles related to conducting forest ecology research in the Pacific Northwest. This work helps meet overall the Forest Service goals of sustaining our nation's forests and grasslands and delivering benefits to the Public.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Performs a variety of duties in support of more experienced professionals and scientists engaged in natural resources research.
- Uses and maintains basic field instrumentation such as weather stations and data loggers.
- Office work will focus on data compilation and verification – generally using basic spreadsheet and database skills, and simple graphics, tabulation, and summarization.
- Plant and other specimens collected in the field may be further examined, processed, or measured in a laboratory setting using a variety of instruments.
- Travel to Experimental Forests to collect field data will comprise approximately 50% of work.
- Work requires the use of safety equipment such as boots and hardhats, two-way radio, and emergency location transponder. All work is required to be performed in compliance with a Job Hazard Analysis and Safety Plan.
- All activities will be conducted in a team environment based on values of interdependence, inclusivity, and mutual respect.

**Qualifications.**

- Knowledge of basic professional ecology and forestry concepts and principles, such as would be acquired through a bachelor's degree program in forestry, ecology, botany, or related natural resources field.
- Skills or experience using spreadsheets (such as Excel) and/or GIS (Geographic Information Systems)
- Ability to express thoughts both verbally and in writing, including writing summary reports.
- Education or experience using basic forestry and ecology tools, including compass or GPS, measuring tapes, tablets or dataloggers, clinometer, laser range finder, digital camera, or remote sensing tools.
- Physical ability to work in a forested environment, with prolonged walking over rough, uneven, or steep terrain under all weather conditions (from very hot and dry to very cold temperatures, rain, snow, wind, and dust); recurring periods of standing; recurring periods of bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, and reaching; encountering stinging insects; lifting of moderately heavy items weighing up to 50 pounds.
- The work requires substantial travel by motor vehicle and requires a valid state driver's license and clean driving record.

Minimum Requirements

- Completion of 2 years at an accredited university, an Associate's degree, or higher
- US citizenship or permanent residency. RAs must undergo a government background check if selected.
- Participation in US Forest Service Orientation Training scheduled for February 2023