



USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position. Climate Change Resource Assistant

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

Location. Anchorage, AK or other Alaska-based USFS Office (negotiable)

Reports To. Robes Parrish, Regional Watershed Program Manager

Job Overview

This position will assist the Tongass and Chugach National Forests develop several products aimed at improving management strategies to ameliorate the effects of climate change. As the two largest and most ecologically intact NF's in the country, this is a great opportunity to assist the Climate Change and Watershed Programs devise strategies to offset climate impacts at both the Regional and District levels.

Responsibilities and Duties

The Climate Change RA must be physically located in Alaska so that they may understand the unique geography, ecosystems and effects of climate change on National Forest resources. Preferably, the candidate would initially and/or permanently be based in Anchorage to work with the Supervisor, however, opportunities for travel or short-duration stationing in other parts of Southcentral or Southeast Alaska may be considered.

The Resource Assistant will be working on a portfolio of tasks in support of climate science, preparedness, communication, and education. This is expected to include assisting with preparing climate science summaries, helping create internal- and external-facing websites, assisting with watershed restoration projects and coordinating with a variety of FS and external partners.

Potential tasks and areas in need of support include:

- Assist Regional Climate Coordinator with completion of the Regional Climate Action Plan.
- Assist Forest-level Climate Coordinators with various products, including:
 - Completing Wildlife, Aquatics, and Subsistence/Cultural Uses Vulnerability Assessments
 - Carbon analyses
 - Responding to public comments related to climate
- Development of internal-and external-facing websites containing climate change information.
- Creating news releases, social media posts, StoryMaps, fact sheets and other public affairs content.



- Researching federal incentive programs for fleet electrification, renewable energy and other sustainable technologies. Providing information to managers to develop funding and implementation strategies.
- Assisting with watershed restoration projects, including creation and producing media for outreach purposes.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate would have some or all of the following skills, knowledge, and experiences:

- College-level coursework in climate change and/or earth/atmospheric sciences is essential, along with other natural resources coursework such as biology, hydrology, ecology, environmental science, land management, or sociology.
- A Bachelors or advanced degree is strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, be task-driven and outcome-focused
- Strong organizational and analytical skills
- Excellent oral communication and writing skills
- Ability to synthesize complex scientific information into summary products
- Ability to communicate and work with specialists across scientific disciplines
- Experience creating online content
- Deep experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams and SharePoint
- Experience using ArcMap or ArcGIS Online
- Experience or desire to work outside for long hours in adverse weather conditions
- Passion for sustainability and climate adaptation and mitigation
- Willingness to ask questions, place cold calls, and navigate new/challenging environments

Minimum Requirements

- Completion of 4 years at an accredited university, a Bachelors 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