

Summer Opportunities in Forest Ecology, Pacific Northwest

Field crew positions are available to participate in vegetation studies in dry forests of central Washington. We will resample restoration sites to examine the long-term responses of forest ecosystems to experimental fuel-reduction treatments (thinning and burning). We will measure growth and mortality of overstory trees and abundance and diversity of understory shrubs, herbs, and graminoids. Field sites are located in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The project is a collaboration between the University of Washington and the U.S. Forest Service and is funded by the Joint Fire Science Program.

These positions are best suited to mature, upper-level undergraduates, current graduate students, or recent graduates who are considering advanced study or professional work in plant ecology or forest management. The nature of the work will require extended periods in the field, long-distance hiking, sometimes off trail, and sampling on steep slopes. We will work an 8-days on, 6-days off schedule, car camping near the field sites (occasionally in the backcountry). Crew members must supply their own tents and sleeping bags/pads. Food costs while in the field will be reimbursed. Crew members are responsible for their own housing and transportation during time off from work.

Specific duties include:

- Relocate permanent vegetation plots using GPS units and metal detectors
- Measure understory plant cover and tree diameter, height, and condition
- Identify plants to species using botanical keys and field guides
- Legibly record data and organize field sheets
- Assist with day-to-day field logistics

Qualifications:

- Previous experience with field work, plant identification, and vegetation sampling
- Ability to use taxonomic keys and field guides to identify plants to species
- Good physical condition and able to work long hours in rugged terrain
- Detail oriented
- Neat and legible handwriting
- Able to live and work cooperatively with others
- Familiarity with the flora of the inland Pacific Northwest is desirable

Salary: \$12.50-\$14.50 / hour, depending on experience

Duration: Mid-May through mid-August (possibly longer); start and end dates may be negotiable

Location: Crew members will meet for work in Wenatchee, WA; transportation from/to Seattle will be available at the beginning and end of most work sessions.

To apply, send the following materials electronically to Allison Rossman at the address below:

- One-page, HAND-WRITTEN cover letter (scanned) describing interests, qualifications, and specific dates of availability
- Typed resume
- Two letters of reference from individuals knowledgeable about your work ethic and experience

Applications will be reviewed starting February 17 and will continue until the positions are filled.

For more information, please contact:

- Allison Rossman, M.S. candidate, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington, Box 352100, Seattle, WA 98195-2100 (arossman@uw.edu)