Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont

Job Title: Forest Health Monitoring Field Technician

The Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative (FEMC) seeks to fill nine to 12 Field Technician positions based in New England and New York to inventory and measure forest plots as part of the Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Program. Annually, the FHM program collects data on forest stand composition and structure, canopy condition and crown health, crown closure, tree regeneration, and forest stressors and threats using a variety of field collection tools and protocols.

Three field crews of 3-4 technicians each will collect data on plots in each of the 7 states with support from FEMC's staff and state coordinators. Crews will train with FEMC staff and state agency personnel to learn the data collection protocols, methods, and techniques. Following training, crews will be responsible for planning daily trips, maintaining equipment, traveling to and from field sites, conducting field work, contributing to FEMC social media outlets, and entering quality assured data.

Required Qualifications

- Ability to identify common native and invasive trees/plants in the Northeast and familiarity with plants and ecosystems of the northeastern U.S. (this can be demonstrated by having completed a college-level dendrology or botany course, or other equivalent life experiences).
- Experience hiking and camping, and/or the willingness to do so for this position.
- Capable of conducting daily field work safely in rough terrain in harsh environmental conditions (heat, rain, biting insects).
- Strong attention to detail and communication skills.
- Demonstrate a high level of maturity, responsibility, attention to safety, and a willingness to raise questions or concerns when necessary.

Desired Qualifications

- Familiarity with, or the willingness to learn, navigation using a map and compass, and/or GPS unit.
- Experience with forest inventory sampling techniques and protocols.
- Wilderness first aid or other first aid safety trainings.
- An understanding data collection and processing using software like Microsoft Excel at a basic level
- Degree, certification, coursework, or equivalent internship/volunteer experience within the field of natural resources.

Physical Demands

For field-based positions, data collection often occurs in remote locations, where cellular connection is unavailable or inconsistent. Field conditions can be challenging, from hot temperatures to heavy rainfall. Travel to and from field plots can be physically demanding, plots can sometimes require up to 8 hours of travel in a vehicle. Ability to hike up to 6 miles per day with 20 lbs is required. Crews should expect to do several stints of camping for 3-4 nights at a time during the course of the season. Camping locations will vary from research facilities to state campgrounds based on accessibility. There may be days where, due to travel, Field Technicians will be expected to work 10+ hours (when daylight allows).

Position Details:
Supervision:

Field Technicians will work with their designated crew members, personnel from partnering state agencies, and with the FEMC Monitoring Coordinator, Jim Duncan (Director), and Naomi Cutler (ECO AmeriCorps Member).

FEMC Home Base: 705 Spear St, South Burlington, VT 05403

Location of work:
Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine.

This position will primarily work out of Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts, with occasional travel to the southern New England states and Maine.

Start Date: May 31, 2022 **End date:** August 19, 2022 (with possibility of additional work into October)

Total Anticipated Hours: 11 weeks, 40 hrs per week

Compensation: $13.55-$14.50 /hr for first year technicians and $13.80-$15.00/hr for returning technicians

Highly recommended gear that is not provided:

- Camping equipment: sleeping bag, sleeping pad, cooking pans, eating utensils, and a tent (if you have trouble accessing this equipment please do not be discouraged from applying)
- Rain gear (jacket and bottom) and comfortable clothing for field work
- Waterproof hiking boots and a pair of rubber rain boots
- Backpack you are comfortable wearing for long periods of time (recommend a ~30L backpack)

Covid-19:

As you may interpret from the job description, the position as it stands will be in-person and may require cross-state travel if allowed at the start of the position in June. However, in the case that Covid related restrictions prohibit the work to continue we will adjust as needed. This unfortunately does not guarantee the position can be offered as described if Covid restrictions prevent in-person work and cross-state travel. The FEMC will be strictly following each State's Covid-19 guidance and may need to adjust the work of this position accordingly.

How to apply: Send a resume, cover letter, and contact information for two references to naomi.cutler@uvm.edu. In the subject line please put **2022 FHM Field Technician Application.** We will be accepting applications through the end of February 2022. **The positions will remain open until filled**. All interviews will be done remotely using Microsoft Teams.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law.