

Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont

Internship Description

Internship Title: Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative Summer Field Internships

Internship Site: Burlington, Mount Mansfield, Lye Brook Wilderness and other locations around Vermont

Description: Three to four interns will train with the Vermont State Department of Forest Parks and Recreation and FEMC staff to inventory and assess forest plots as part of a statewide forest health monitoring program. Interns will work closely with forest health professionals to establish monitoring plots, quantify stand composition and structure, assess canopy condition, collect hemispherical photos for digital assessments of crown closure, and conduct regeneration and understory assessments on subplots.

After training, interns will be expected to work independently to plan daily trips, maintain equipment, conduct field work, work with the FEMC database, as well as develop and contribute content to FEMC social media outlets.

Additionally, FEMC has been working on expanding our network of collaborators in forest health monitoring. This year there will be opportunities working with the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest staff establishing Long Term Ecological Monitoring Plots (LEMP).

At the end of the field data collection, interns will be expected to conduct a summary analysis of data for the year. This could include simple descriptive metrics of plot measurements, or more complex statistical analyses to compare methodologies, species or locations. The intern's final report on the measurements collected will be included in FEMC's annual report and posted to the web site (www.uvm.edu/femc).

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:

Because of the nature of this field work, interns must be comfortable in the field and capable of hiking long distances over rough terrain. Some plots will require camping overnight to minimize travel time to clusters of distant plots. There may be days requiring travel where interns will be expected to work 10+ hours (when daylight allows).

Successful applicants must be knowledgeable of the common tree and herbaceous species in our area. This can be demonstrated by having completed the FOR21 dendrology course or the PB109 plant systematics course. Because plots are unmarked, comfort with GPS navigation is also required. Exposure to additional forest inventory sampling techniques (hypsonometers, d-tapes, prisms, etc.) are preferred but not required.

As with any research study, attention to detail and a willingness to raise questions or concerns are imperative. Because this field crew will work independently for much of the internship, successful applicants must also demonstrate a high level of maturity, responsibility, communication and attention to safety standards.

Because of the nature of this work, it is likely that work weeks will consist of four 10 hour days. It is important that interns keep their weekly schedules flexible as work weeks may change based on weather and distance to various field locations.

Supervision: Interns will work closely with Jim Duncan (FEMC Director), John Truong (FEMC Field Coordinator) Jennifer Pontius (RSENr faculty) and Josh Halman (VT FPR) for the first several weeks of the internship. After this initial training period, interns will be expected to continue field work independently, reporting back to FEMC supervisors at the end of each week.

Start and End Dates: Start Date: June 11, 2018 End date: August 17, 2018

Total Hours: 400 hours (10 weeks, 40 hrs per week)

Compensation: \$11.50/hr

How to apply: Send a resume, cover letter and contact information for two references to John.truong@uvm.edu by February 23, 2018.