



## Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont



### **Job Title:** Forest Health Monitoring Field Crew Leader

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The Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative (FEMC) seeks to fill field crew leader positions for our Forest Health Monitoring crews 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.

Crew Leaders will be working with two technicians. The Crew Leaders will train in Burlington, VT with FEMC staff and the VT Department of Forest Parks and Recreation to inventory and assess forest plots as part of a statewide forest health monitoring program. Following training, work will be conducted throughout the New England and New York region.

Crew Leaders will be expected to plan daily trips, facilitate tasks, maintain their crews schedule, maintain equipment, conduct field work, provide and receive constructive feedback, and work with the FEMC database to get data entered prior to the end of the field season. Crew Leaders will be responsible for making judgment calls in the field when problems arise, and knowing when to elevate issues to program staff. Crew Leaders will need to submit weekly reports on their crew's progress at the end of their work week.

Daily work will be primarily based outside, and may involve being out in inclement weather or require travel across difficult terrain and will also include computer or tablet based data entry and associated quality control. At the end of the field data collection season, there will be the opportunity for interested crew members to conduct a summary analysis of the current year's data, which will be included in FEMC's annual report, posted to the website ([www.uvm.edu/femc](http://www.uvm.edu/femc)), and presented in as a poster at the FEMC Annual Conference in December.

Crew Leaders must be comfortable working in inclement weather in the field and capable of hiking long distances over rough terrain carrying field gear weighing 20 lbs. Many plots will require camping for 1 to 4 nights. Because of the nature of this work, weather, and travel requirements, the weekly field schedule and length of the day can vary.

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### **Required Qualifications:**

- Previous experience in field activities related to natural resources or environment;
- Knowledge of forest inventory sampling techniques and protocols.
- Experience maintaining accurate and detailed data records (on paper field sheets and in applications such as Excel/Access);
- Familiarity with navigation using a map and compass, and/or GPS unit;
- Experience hiking and camping, and 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;
- Licensed to operate a vehicle within the U.S.;

**Desired qualifications:**

Experience supervising, training, and evaluating others; Ability to identify common native tree species found throughout New England (this can be demonstrated by having completed a college level dendrology or botany course); Wilderness First Aid or other field safety training.

**Supervision:**

Crew Leaders will work closely with John Truong (Monitoring and Services Coordinator), Alexandra Kosiba (Research Coordinator), Jim Duncan (Director), Jake Van Deursen (Monitoring and Outreach Specialist) and Emily Meacham (VT FPR Forest Health Specialist) for the first several weeks of the position. After this initial training period, Crew Leaders will be expected to continue field work independently with their crews.

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**Start and End Dates:** Start Date: June 3, 2020 End date: August 21, 2020

*\*Opportunities for employment on additional inventory and office work is available into September based on performance and availability*

**Total Anticipated Hours:** 10 weeks, 40 hrs per week.

**Compensation:** \$13.50/hr

**How to apply:** Send a resume, cover letter and contact information for two references to [John.truong@uvm.edu](mailto:John.truong@uvm.edu). In the subject line please put **2020 FHM Field Crew Leader Application**. FEMC Staff will begin reviewing applications on **February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.