



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 several 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.

Field crews will be comprised of one crew leader and two technicians. Crews will train with FEMC and Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation staff. Following training in Burlington, VT, crews will be responsible to plan daily trips, maintain equipment, travel to and from field sites, conduct field work, contribute to FEMC social media outlets, and enter data and assess its quality.

Daily work will be primarily based outside, and may involve being out in inclement weather or require travel across difficult terrain, but 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), and presented in as a poster at the FEMC Annual Conference in December.

Field Technicians 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.

Required Qualifications

Ability to identify common native and invasive 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); Familiarity with, or the willingness to learn, 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, and a willingness to raise questions or concerns.

Desired Qualifications

Experience conducting field work related to vegetation inventories, plant research, and/or restoration; Wilderness First Aid or other field safety training; Comfort with using plant identification keys, and knowledge of plant taxonomy; Experience maintaining accurate and detailed data records (on paper field sheets and in applications such as Excel/Access); Exposure to forest inventory sampling techniques and protocols.

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. Ability to lift up to 20 lbs and hike up to 6 miles per day is expected.

Fieldwork will require overnight travel and will involve overnight camping. There may be days where, due to travel, Field Technicians will be expected to work 10+ hours (when daylight allows).

Supervision:

Field Technicians will work with their designated Crew Leader on day-to-day operations, and with FEMC Staff John Truong (Monitoring and Services Coordinator), Alexandra Kosiba (Project Coordinator), Jim Duncan (Director), Jake Van Deursen (Monitoring and Outreach Specialist) and VT FPR Forest Health Specialist Emily Meacham for training.

Start and End Dates: Start Date: June 8, 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: \$12.50/hr

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