



Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont



Job Title: Data Technician

The Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative (FEMC) seeks to fill a Field Technician position based in Vermont to aid in inventory and measurement of forest plots as part of the Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Program as well as aid in data entry and quality analysis for this year's field season. 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.

Technicians will train with FEMC staff to learn the protocol and calibrate on the techniques and methods. Following training, the forest health technician will enter data from field crews, assess its quality, work with FEMC staff to perform quality analysis (QA) checks on surveyed plots, and help with data digitization work.

The work week will be mixture of field days and office days processing data. Field days 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.

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. Because of the nature of this work, weather, and travel requirements, the field schedule and length of the day can vary.

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).
- 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).
- Licensed to operate a vehicle within the U.S.
- 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

- Experience with forest inventory sampling techniques and protocols.
- Experience in a role of supervision or leadership.
- Wilderness first aid or other first aid safety trainings.
- An understanding of excel at an intermediate level (comfortably navigate excel, create graphs/tables, utilize formulas and functions to efficiently process data).
- Experience in maintaining accurate and detailed data records.

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).

Position Details:

Supervision:

Technicians will work with their designated crew mates, State Coordinators, and with FEMC Staff John Truong (Monitoring and Services Coordinator), Pia Ruisi-Besares (Project Coordinator), Jim Duncan (Director), and Emma Gwyn (Eco-AmeriCorps Member).

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

Location of work:

Vermont primarily with the possibility of travel to Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine where other Forest Health Monitoring plots are being established.

Start Date: June 21, 2021 **End date:** September 1, 2021

Total Anticipated Hours: 10 weeks, 40 hrs per week

Compensation: \$13.25/hr

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 make adjustments 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 adjust accordingly.

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.

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 **2021 FHM Technician Application**. FEMC Staff will begin reviewing applications on a rolling basis. All interviews will be done remotely using Microsoft Teams.