Internship Title: Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative Forest Health Monitoring Intern

Internship Site: Forested plots in Burlington, Mount Mansfield, Lye Brook Wilderness, and other locations throughout Vermont.

Description: The Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) intern will work closely with a field crew (2-3 people) to collect forest mensuration, health, and productivity data on a set of 49 forested plots throughout the state of Vermont. Field tasks include measuring tree heights and diameters, assessing tree crown health, collecting hemispherical photos to assess crown closure, and quantifying regeneration and understory composition.

The FHM intern will be trained as part of the larger field crew by Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation (VT FPR) and USFS Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests staff on protocols and methodology used to inventory and assess forest plots.

Following training, the FHM intern will work with the rest of the field crew to plan daily trips, maintain equipment, interact with landowners and project partners, collect data from forest plots, enter data into the FEMC database, verify data, and develop and contribute content to FEMC social media outlets.

At the end of the season, the field crew will be expected to conduct a summary analysis and quality assurance assessment of the 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 field crew’s final report or poster on the measurements collected will be published to the FEMC web site at the end of the season and promoted at the FEMC Annual Conference in December.

Eligibility: Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by May 2020 are eligible to apply. Students graduating May 2020 are not eligible to apply.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:

- Because of the nature of this fieldwork, the FHM intern must be comfortable in the field and capable of hiking long distances over rough terrain. Camping overnight will be required 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 species in our area. This can be demonstrated by having completed the NR21/FOR21 Dendrology course, or similar course. Travel to plots requires comfort using a GPS navigation system and/or a map and compass. Exposure to additional forest inventory sampling techniques (hypsometers, d-tapes, prisms, etc.) is preferred, but not required.

Some quantitative skills and familiarity with common software such as Microsoft Excel, Access (database functionality) and Powerpoint (presentation and poster development) are helpful for working with data and communicating results. Familiarity with social media is also a plus.

As with any research study, attention to detail, ability to follow established protocol, 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 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.

**Supervision:** Interns will work closely with Alexandra Kosiba (FEMC Research Projects Coordinator), John Truong (FEMC Field and Project Coordinator), Jim Duncan (FEMC Director), and Jennifer Pontius (RSENR faculty) for the first several weeks of the internship. After this initial training period, interns will be expected to continue field work independently and in coordination with VT FPR staff, reporting back to supervisors at the end of each week.

**Start and End Dates:** June to August, 2019 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

**Total Hours:** 40 hours/week, for at least 10 weeks

**Compensation:** $12.25/hour commensurate with skills and experience

**How to apply:**

1. Click the following link to view the Rubenstein Perennial Internships in Handshake https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837
   a. If asked to log in: click “UVM Net ID Login” & login.
   b. Click the Favorite button to enable easier searches in the future.
2. Click “View All Jobs” in Jobs at Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program box on right side of page.
3. You should now see the great Perennial internship opportunities! Click “View Details” to learn more about each position.
   a. Please do take the time to read through each individual description so that you don’t miss a great opportunity by judging an internship solely on its title.
   b. You may apply for up to three Perennial Internships.
   c. All applications are due by 11:59pm, Wednesday, January 29th, 2020.
4. You'll need to upload all required documents in Handshake before you can apply for any Perennial Internship:
   a. Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake.
   b. Select Documents.

5. Please upload documents as pdfs. The following are required documents:
   i. Resume.
   ii. Cover Letter - You should write & upload unique cover letters for each position to which you are applying to.
   iii. Transcript - Login to your My UVM Portal, click on the Registrar link, click Request Official Transcript by email, once received, save it as a pdf and upload.
   iv. Other Required Documents - Reference(s) & Position Ranking - in one document, please include & upload:
      1. Reference(s) – Provide name & contact information for at least one professional reference. This could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, a professor or teacher, etc. The person listed should NOT be the person also completing your recommendation form.
      2. Position Ranking - If you are applying for more than one Perennial Internship, provide a list of the positions in rank order.

6. In addition to the documents you will need to submit, a recommendation form completed by a Rubenstein faculty, graduate student or staff member of your choosing. When you ask your recommender if they are willing to complete the form to support your application, please provide your recommender this link to the recommendation form
   a. Only one recommendation form needs to be completed regardless of how many Perennial Internships you are applying for.
   b. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially added to your application(s). This recommendation form needs to be submitted by the January 29th deadline.

7. Make sure that your resume and cover letter(s) are as strong as they can be! Utilize the resources around you:
   a. The Rubenstein Stewards are great at reviewing resumes/cover letters and providing helpful feedback – stop by Aiken 111.
   b. Stop by the Food, Environment & Sustainability Career Interest Group Drop In Hours in the Career Center (204 Davis Center): Tuesdays, 10:30am – 12pm and Wednesdays, 1:30pm-3pm
c. Stop by Anna Smiles-Becker’s (Rubenstein Career Counselor & Internship Coordinator) office (Aiken 220G) to sign up for a resume/cover letter review appointment.

8. A team of Rubenstein faculty and staff will be reviewing all submitted applications and forwarding materials onto each Perennial site. If you are selected to interview for a Perennial Internship, you will be contacted by the site to set up an interview during early-mid March.