

State of Washington
 Dept. of Natural Resources
 invites applications for the position of:
**Forest Health Specialist and Aerial Observer,
 Natural Resource Specialist 3**

careers.wa.gov
 Working for Washington State

SALARY: \$3,774.00 - \$5,741.00 Monthly
 \$45,288.00 - \$68,892.00 Annually

OPENING DATE: 02/18/20

CLOSING DATE: 03/15/20 11:59 PM

DESCRIPTION:



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



**Forest Health Specialist and Aerial Observer
 Natural Resource Specialist 3/Natural Resource Specialist 2 In-Training
 Forest Health and Resiliency Division – Olympia
 Recruitment #2020-02-7862**

This is a full-time, permanent represented position.

Want to join something GREAT and make a difference?

The DNR Forest Health and Resiliency Division is looking to add to our growing team of natural resource professionals. This senior level forest health in-training position will focus on applied science to inform land management by gathering, synthesizing and reporting forest health data specific to disease and insect observations. The Aerial Detection Survey (ADS) is flown annually throughout the forested areas of Washington state. This position will act semi-autonomously and in conjunction with US Forest Service to accomplish the Aerial Detection Survey (ADS), which is flown annually throughout the forested areas of Washington state. The position participates in mission planning, flight direction, and flight communications. The employee will not be closely supervised by the direct supervisor during the actual survey, but they will receive specific training in interagency standards. Additionally, this position will work on field forestry monitoring projects and ground surveys, including trapping surveys under direction from the Forest Entomologist and in cooperation with volunteers and partner organizations.

If you are comfortable in a small plane and in the field, a graduate in forestry or a natural resource related field, have a working knowledge and strong interest in forest health issues, and are looking to apply and expand your knowledge while providing vital information to land and resource managers in a collaborative spirit to create healthy, resilient landscapes we want to hear from you!

What we will trust you with:

- In cooperation with federal partners or autonomously with other agency personnel, this position is responsible to plan, coordinate, and conduct the annual insect and disease detection survey of forest lands across Washington. The survey is flown at approximately 1000-1500 feet above ground level, mostly in a grid pattern. Two surveyors will be on board the aircraft surveying from

both sides of the plane. When insect or disease damage is observed, the location, type of damage and number of affected trees or percent area are recorded on a digital mobile sketch mapping (DMSM) device. The data are then built into data layers and maps which are disseminated to and utilized by a variety of local, state, federal, and private entities for various purposes including land management planning.

- Participates in planning and conducting special ground surveys, such as early warning detection projects using insect pheromone traps and larval and egg mass surveys.
- Check the consistency of data collection methods and accuracy of data collected by volunteers and partners in field monitoring.
- Coordinates and oversees forest health monitoring projects and contracts, including management of volunteer activities in support of a Region and Division forest health goals or emerging threats.
- Provides pheromone traps and supplies for various cooperators.
- Uses specialized equipment such as GPS receivers, basic forestry measurement equipment and chainsaws to achieve desired research goals.
- Establishes, collects data from, and maintains research plots and demonstration areas.
- Assists Division scientists with laboratory work related to monitoring forest health utilizing dissecting microscopes and other specialized equipment.
- Processes and summarizes research data using software such as spreadsheets and databases.
- Plans, organizes, and secures equipment and labor for projects. Designs and constructs specialized equipment as needed.
- Operates project vehicles and schedules the maintenance and repair of project vehicles as needed.
- Participates in large scale forest pest control projects as needed.
- Meets with landowners to assess site for forest health and fire risk.
- Maintains and develops partnerships with partner agencies, tribes, universities, researchers, and non-profits in forest health research and forest management.
- Assists in the preparation of the annual Washington Forest Health Highlights report, including results from aerial surveys.
- Interprets forest health research findings into land management considerations and recommendations.

Who are we looking for?

Natural Resource Specialist 2 (NRS3 In-Training) candidate has:

- A Bachelor's degree with major study in forestry or related natural science field.
- At least 1 years of professional experience in forestry, forest health research, ecology, or related natural resource field. (Years in additional higher education with professional experience may qualify as equivalent, and time gained in on the job training will qualify).
- A working knowledge of forest ecology, entomology and pathology (host/agent).
- A sincere desire and physical ability to fly aerial surveys. A high comfort level for flying in small aircraft at relatively low altitudes in remote areas including the ability to control nausea in an airplane while sketch mapping, endure limited space and minimal movement for prolonged periods of time in hot and uncomfortable situations.
- Experience reading maps and using GPS units and the ability to orient self on digital maps used for survey quickly and easily.
- Ability to operate general forestry tools, specialized biological laboratory equipment, and office machines and programs (i.e. spreadsheets, computer, printers, etc.).
- Ability to drive safely on a variety of road surfaces in many levels of traffic.
- Skill in applying and adapting biological methods, procedures, and techniques and in exercising independent judgment in order to make day-to-day decisions where standard methods and procedures do not apply.
- Strong verbal and written communications skills, including skill in presenting data and its analyses, writing objective reports requiring a minimum of reviewing and editing.
- Ability to work on uneven terrain in all weather conditions. Work will be performed in office, laboratory, and field settings including in small aircraft. Field work may take place in remote sites in a variety of weather conditions, steep topography, and require carrying equipment into research areas. Aerial survey season is traditionally July – September, but may run into October and include special surveys at other times, such as April-June. Field work may be required at any time of year, with more time spent in the office in November to March.

- The incumbent in this position is required to travel.
- Must have a valid driver's license and have two years of driving experience. This position requires driving as an essential function. Employees who drive for state business, whether in a state or privately-owned vehicle, are required to possess a valid license as defined in policy PO02-006 and abide by all other driver responsibility requirements. Finalists and/or interview candidates will be asked to provide a driving record from all states in which they have held a license during the past three years.
- Experience with GIS software, particularly ESRI products (ArcGIS). OR ability to achieve certification within 16 months of hire.
- Normal color vision and depth perception with, or correctable to, 20/20 eyesight. The ability to distinguish subtle variations in foliage color in order to detect dead, dying, and infested trees is critical.

Natural Resource Specialist 3 candidates will meet the NRS2 required qualifications in addition to the qualification below:

- At least 2 years of professional experience in forestry, forest health research, ecology, or related natural resource field. (Years in additional higher education with professional experience may qualify as equivalent, and time gained in on the job training will qualify).

Desirable Qualifications:

- Experience with flying in small aircraft.
- Experience with GIS software, particularly ESRI products (ArcGIS).

This may be filled as an in-training. The training plan is up to 18 months. If you complete all elements of the training steps in a shorter amount of time, we may waive the remainder of the time required. Candidates will be considered as Natural Resource Specialist 2 or Natural Resource Specialist 3, depending on qualifications.

The Location

One of the world's most scenic places, Washington State offers breathtaking discoveries for people who love natural beauty and outdoor recreation, from the Pacific Coast shores to the rugged Cascade Mountains to the rolling hills of the Palouse. Your office will be located in Olympia on the state capital campus and minutes from downtown and the South Puget Sound.



Why work for DNR?

At DNR, we value public service, innovation and creative problem solving, safety and well-being, and leadership and teamwork. At DNR you'll support the vision of a sustainable future by using your skills to protect and manage the state's natural resources for both current and future generations. As a DNR

employee, you'll work with the public's interest in mind as we manage more than 5 million acres of state-owned forest, range, commercial, agricultural and aquatic lands. But managing lands is only half of our story. We house the Washington Geological Survey, a dynamic program that is the primary source of geological products and services in support of decision making in Washington. We also protect other public resources such as fish, wildlife, water, and provide public access to outdoor recreation. Two of our largest and most important state-wide resource protection responsibilities are fire prevention and suppression, and overseeing forest practices.

We are nearly 1,500 employees strong and dedicated to making DNR a great place to work. Our mission is to serve Washington's lands and communities; build strong and healthy rural communities; enhance forest health and wildfire management; strengthen the health and resilience of our lands and waters; and increase public engagement and commitment to our public lands and resources. In partnership with citizens and governments, we provide innovative leadership and expertise to ensure environmental protection, public safety, perpetual funding for schools and communities, and a rich quality of life. At DNR we approach our work through the lens of making Washington a better place environmentally, economically and socially for current and future generations.

What makes DNR a great place to work?

- Transitioning to a modern work environment
 - Mobile work
 - Incentives at work program
 - Commitment to organizational health and wellness
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council
 - Leadership that empowers and supports employees
 - Work/life balance
 - Leadership development opportunities
 - Educational aid and career development stipends
 - Public Service Loan Forgiveness Eligibility
 - Opportunities to participate in wildland fire suppression assignments
 - Opportunities to stretch your professional skills
 - A comprehensive benefit package that includes employer contributions toward health insurance, paid holidays, retirement plans, sick leave and vacation days.
- Visit <http://careers.wa.gov/benefits.html> for more information.

Application Process

To be considered you must apply online at www.careers.wa.gov (**Click on the APPLY button above**). You must complete the entire online application to be considered for the position.

- You must attach the following:
 - A letter of interest describing how your experience and qualifications relate to the position profile, required and desired position qualifications, and special position requirements.
 - A resume **including the names of three to five professional references**

Carefully review your application materials before submitting. **If you fail to submit the required documents or complete the entire online application, you may no longer be considered for the position by the supervisor.**

Application Status – once you submit your online application, you can check your status by logging into your account. Finalists for the position will be contacted by the hiring manager directly. Recruitment may be extended depending on the quantity and quality of the application pool.

Questions? Please contact Glenn Kohler at 360-902-1342, glenn.kohler@dnr.wa.gov or e-mail us at DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources is an Equal Opportunity Employer and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any kind. We are committed to providing equal employment opportunities in a fair and impartial manner for all persons without regard to age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, creed, color, national origin, religion, pregnancy/parental

status, genetic information, military status, political affiliation, criminal history or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained service animal by a person with a disability. Persons with a disability who need assistance during the screening process or those needing this announcement in an alternative format may contact DNR Recruiting staff (360) 902-1350 or (360) 902-1139. DNR may be contacted using the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) by dialing 711.



Forest Health Specialist and Aerial Observer, Natural Resource Specialist 3 Supplemental Questionnaire

- * 1. Do you have a bachelor's degree with major study in forestry or related natural science field?
 - Yes
 - No
- * 2. Do you have at least 1 years of professional experience in forestry, forest health research, ecology, or related natural resource field. (Years in additional higher education with professional experience may qualify as equivalent, and time gained in on the job training will qualify)?
 - Yes
 - No
- * 3. Do you have experience reading maps and using GPS units and the ability to orient self on digital maps used for survey quickly and easily?
 - Yes
 - No
- * 4. Do you have normal color vision and depth perception with, or correctable to, 20/20 eyesight?
 - Yes
 - No
- * 5. Do you have a valid driver's license and at least two years of driving experience?
 - Yes
 - No
- * 6. Where did you originally hear about this job (i.e. friend, newspaper, careers.wa.gov, specific job board website)?

* Required Question