

2021 Live Fuels Student Research Assistant - Outreach



Oregon State University

Cascades

OSU-Cascades has been assisting the BLM and USFS fire managers since 2008 by collecting seasonal live fuel moisture content at four sites around Central Oregon. This summer, the project is expanding to collect information in an attempt to better model live fuel moisture using soil moisture and plant health imaging.

Position Description: the student research assistant will help refine data collection protocol and, during the summer season, travel to field sites and collect samples and remotely-sensed data. Student will process samples in the lab and collate the data. At the end of the season, student will help run statistical analyses on the data. If the study is published, possible co-authorship will be available, depending on level of student engagement in the project.

Duties:

- Spring Term: travel and collect samples on a weekly schedule, beginning as soon as position is filled.
- Summer: for a period of two or three months, collect samples two days per week at two sites and every two weeks collect at the other two sites (schedule can be modified).
- Exercise extreme detail-oriented collection practices and accurate laboratory data recording.
- Monitor data logging equipment to ensure continuous data collection
- Process live fuel samples in the lab
- Complete lab safety training requirements
- Be curious about the natural environment and make intelligent ecosystem observations
- Begins Late April 2021, ends October 2021 (lighter schedule during academic terms)

Compensation:

- Pay rate of \$15/hr
- Estimated 220 hr over the study period
- Professional recognition on publications and presentations

Minimum Qualifications:

- OSU-Cascades student
- Sophomore - senior status with a biology and ecology background
- Ability to commit to the work schedule – in the field by 8am
- Clearance OSU vehicle or use personal vehicle (Reimbursed gas receipts - a reliable, moderate clearance vehicle is required)
- Experience with Excel, plant identification
- Competent in field work

Preferred Qualifications

- OSU-Cascades NR, ENSC, or BI student
- Completed coursework in ecology, forestry, and soil science

Internship Credit option: This opportunity can be used to fulfill NR410 Internship credits that can be used in the NR degree program to meet experiential education opportunity. Up to 3 credits.

Contact Dr. Ron Reuter, reuterr@oregonstate.edu if you are interested, meet the minimum qualifications, and plan on applying for the position.