Research Experience for Undergraduate Students (REU) Opportunity at H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest – an NSF-funded long-term ecological research site

Seeking one summer student to contribute to ecological research in the LaManna (Marquette University), Busby (Oregon State University), Diez (U of Oregon), and McCune (OSU) labs at the NSF-funded HJ Andrews Experimental Forest long-term ecological research site (LTER). Students will be supported by the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates program.

Some of the greatest understory plant-species diversity globally occurs in Pacific Northwest forests, especially for bryophytes. Yet we know very little about how these understory plant communities differ across elevation gradients and how they may respond to climate change. This REU will examine which environmental factors drive moss/lichen distributions and range limits across the 1,000 m elevation gradient at the Andrews LTER by identifying and quantifying cover of moss species across the 375 1-m^2 understory plots in reference stands across the Andrews LTER and by cataloging lichen abundances in trees that are paired with these understory plots. Potential factors that might drive moss/lichen distributions that could be examined by the REU include: soil, interactions with woody/herbaceous plants, microclimate, and macroclimatic differences across the elevation gradient. The REU would also be involved in monitoring a unique reciprocal transplant experiment aimed at understanding how species interactions may mediate responses to climate change for tree seedlings, mosses, and lichens. Students will participate in weekly lab group meetings and will have an opportunity to present results of their summer research. The positions involve in-person activities at the Andrews field station.

The work will occur at the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest (https://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/), an NSF Long-tern Ecological Research (LTER) site that is located roughly 45 minutes east of Eugene, Oregon. The area is known for its recreational opportunities including hiking and backpacking, scenic volcanoes, and the Three Sisters Wilderness Area. The full-time positions are for 10 weeks, roughly from June-August 2022 (start date is flexible). Students will be provided with a stipend of $5,5000. Eligibility is limited to currently enrolled undergraduates that have a graduation date no sooner than fall 2022 (no graduating seniors). All applicants must be U.S. Citizens or permanent residents. Students from traditionally underrepresented groups in science are encouraged to apply. To apply please send a cover letter outlining your interest and relevant experience, CV, and contact information for three professional references to: joseph.lamanna<at>marquette.edu with the subject “LTER REU application.” Review of applications will begin on May 4 but applications will be considered until the position is filled.