



## USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

- Position.** US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region Climate Change Resource Assistant
- Duration.** 8 Month Fellowship (32 weeks): Starting February 2024 – September 2024 (dates are dependent upon the start date)
- Location.** Virtual/remote. Candidates able to work from Oregon or Washington are encouraged to apply.

**Reports To.** The Resource Assistant will report to Thomas Timberlake, Climate change and science coordinator for the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region and Research Station

### Job Overview

This position offers the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in climate change adaptation and carbon stewardship through work with a regional climate change program. The Pacific Northwest Region climate change program works with other regional programs and 17 national forest units in Oregon and Washington to prepare ecosystems, watersheds, and communities for challenges like wildfires, floods, and droughts.

Given the multidisciplinary nature of the Forest Service's work, this position would also offer the opportunity to develop an understanding of other related topics like ecology, recreation management, and hydrology, in addition to climate change. It would be a particularly good fit for someone interested in a career working in federal land and nature resource management. While the regional climate change program does not currently have permanent positions available, the supervisor would work with the Resource Assistant to identify and pursue permanent job opportunities with the Forest Service following completion of the internship. Specific responsibilities and duties would be tailored to the Resource Assistant's skills, interests, and desired career path.

While the internship could be completed virtually, the ideal candidate would be able to spend at least part of the internship working from either the Portland metropolitan area or from another location in Oregon or Washington. Work in this role would primarily be computer-based, including conducting research and science synthesis, developing communication materials, completing geospatial analysis, and participating in meetings. However, there could be opportunities to conduct field work and/or site visits as part of the role if the Resource Assistant were interested.

### Responsibilities and Duties

- Support development and updating of fact sheets, reports, and other communication materials that support integration of climate change considerations in national forest management;
- Use available datasets to monitor and analyze current climate conditions;



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- Work on projects in support of regional and national climate change priorities, including adapting to changing wildfire regimes, restoring functioning watersheds, preparing for and responding to extreme events, and connecting communities to national forests.
- Develop public-facing communication materials on topics related to climate change.

## Qualifications

The ideal candidate would have:

- Bachelors, Masters, or PhD in relevant field (e.g., climate change, forestry, ecology, hydrology, recreation management, natural resources, environmental science, public policy);
- Skills in written and/or verbal communication;
- Technical skills in data management and analysis, GIS, and/or data collection;
- Some knowledge of and/or exposure to relevant subject matter, including climate change, forest ecology in the Pacific Northwest, and natural resource policy;
- Interest in career with federal natural resource management agency (e.g., Forest Service); ideal candidates would also have the ability to qualify for common federal job series (e.g., [GS-401](#), [GS-408](#), [GS-430](#), [GS-460](#), [GS-1315](#)).

## Minimum Requirements

- Completion of 2 years at an accredited university, an Associate's degree, or higher
- US citizenship or permanent residency. RAs must undergo a government background check if selected.
- Participation in US Forest Service Orientation Training scheduled for February 2024