



School of Forestry

## Masters (MS) Research Assistantships in Forest Health, Silviculture and Restoration

Start Date: Summer 2024

Application Due Date: January 31, 2024



### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Drs. Kristen Waring and Richard Hofstetter (School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University (NAU)) are seeking two new Master of Science students to join a collaborative research project investigating the ecology and management of the invasive oystershell scale (OSS) on aspen. The collaborative research team includes investigators from the USDA Forest Service, University of Georgia and North Carolina State University with an overarching goal of developing an integrated pest management system for OSS in aspen stands. Funding will include a graduate research stipend including summer salary, tuition waiver, and health benefits. Students from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

### **Position 1 Description**

[Dr. Richard Hofstetter](#) is seeking a Master's graduate research assistant (GRA) to join [his research group](#). The GRA will develop a thesis project involving both laboratory and field work in Arizona (and potentially Utah) assessing the life-stages, biology and natural enemies of OSS. Results from this study will inform land management and restoration efforts in the region, particularly in aspen stands that are facing a multitude of disturbance threats. GRA duties include the installation, collection, analysis, and the final synthesis of quantitative entomological and ecological data for peer-reviewed publication(s).

### **Position 2 Description**

[Dr. Kristen Waring](#) is seeking a Master's graduate research assistant (GRA) to join [her research group](#). The GRA will develop a thesis project involving field and lab work related to the effectiveness of silviculture, pesticide, and other treatments for reducing OSS damage in natural aspen stands in Arizona and Utah. Results will be incorporated into an integrated pest management system for OSS in aspen stands and inform aspen management throughout the region. GRA duties include the installation, collection, analysis, and the final synthesis of quantitative ecological data for peer-reviewed publication(s); collaboration with other team members and assistance with field sample collections and outreach documents.

### **Required Qualifications for both positions:**

- B.S. degree in forestry, entomology, pathology, natural resource management, ecology, or closely related field of study.
- Experience and demonstrated ability to work in a field setting.
- Strong writing skills and desire to author academic publications.
- Experience or interest in collaboration and science communication/outreach.
- Availability to start in Summer of 2024.

### **Preferred Qualifications for both positions:**

- Previous research experience, including field/lab experience or silviculture/entomology experience.
- Previous experience with statistical analysis, including coding in R or a similar statistical software.

### **Application Process**

Interested individuals must submit a CV, one-page cover letter, and contact information for 2-3 professional references via email to Dr. Hofstetter ([rich.hofstetter@nau.edu](mailto:rich.hofstetter@nau.edu)) (position 1) or Dr. Waring ([kristen.waring@nau.edu](mailto:kristen.waring@nau.edu)) (position 2) by January 31, 2024. The selected candidates must then apply and be accepted to the [NAU School of Forestry](#) graduate program by March 15, 2024.