USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position.   Forest Service R&D RAP Social Science Intern

Duration.   6 Month Fellowship (26 weeks): Starting February 2023 - August 2023 (dates are dependent upon the start date)

Location.   Position can be virtual or based in Washington, DC.

Reports To. The Forest Service R&D RAP Social Science Intern will report to the Washington Office Research and Development (WO R&D) National Program Leader for Social Science in WO R&D Landscape Restoration and Ecosystem Services Research (LRESR) staff.

Job Overview

This Forest Service R&D RAP Social Science Intern will work closely with the R&D National Program Leader for Social Science and other colleagues in the Human Dimensions community to provide social science support and analysis to various agency efforts, including our efforts for Executive Orders related to equity and environmental justice. This position will have opportunities to work across the Forest Service to identify what data, research, and expertise the agency already has to support social considerations, what data are available from external entities and partners, and how the Human Dimensions community can engage in new data collections. This position also will engage in meetings of the Human Dimensions community, equity-related meetings, and others as interest and expertise allow. This position may also assist in planning webinars and science delivery opportunities for Forest Service social scientists and economists.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Engage with the Forest Service Human Dimensions community to support agency needs around social science for a range of efforts, such as for strategic planning, policy and program support, equity considerations, and others.
- Support possible future data collection efforts by compiling potential survey questions, engaging with internal and external stakeholders to determine data needs, and assisting in preparation and submission of new information collections.
- Engage in regular meetings relevant to these efforts, including the Human Dimensions community, equity working groups, recreation-related efforts, and others.
- Assist in maintaining directories of social scientists and economists in the Forest Service, assessing needs and interests, supporting science delivery, and planning meetings for the FS Human Dimensions community.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in social science, economics, human dimensions of natural resources, environmental policy, or a related field.
- Experience or coursework in public policy, survey design and implementation, and social data analysis are preferred.
- The position requires commitment to equity and inclusion, interpersonal skills, and the ability to collaborate effectively with diverse groups of people.
- Candidates must have strong written and oral communication skills, some database management experience, strong organization skills, an ability to work independently and initiate projects, and an interest in learning about and supporting the Forest Service Human Dimensions community.

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 2023.