



Job Title: Research Assistant (Requisition ID#: 9009)
Agency: Purdue University – Dept. of Forestry & Natural Resources
Closing Date: January 31, 2020
Start Date: March 1, 2020 or soon thereafter
Duration: 2 years, renewable based on funding and performance
Compensation: \$38,000 - \$40,000/year plus benefits

The Saunders' Silviculture and Fire Ecology Lab in Purdue University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) in West Lafayette, Indiana, is seeking applicants for a research assistant. This individual will help coordinate and conduct field research activities within the lab, working closely with undergraduate students, graduate students and staff members in FNR.

Responsibilities:

This position is funded by multiple grants with field sites located throughout the Midwest. The Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE; www.heeforeststudy.org), a large multidisciplinary research project examining the relationship of silvicultural practices to changes in plant and animal species within forests, is located near Bloomington, IN. Another project is located at the Naval Surface Warfare Center – Crane Division (NSWC-Crane); this long-term silviculture trial uses expanding group shelterwoods and prescribed fire to regenerate oak and increase structural complexity of Central Hardwood oak forests. Finally, a Joint Fire Sciences grant funds data collection from sites from Missouri to Kentucky; data are being used to estimate the impact of prescribed fire on overstory timber quality and lumber value.

The incumbent will coordinate research activities on these projects, including implementation of silvicultural prescriptions (e.g., prescribed fire, midstory removal, planting) as needed. She/he will independently collect data, supervise undergraduate students (serving as crew leader), and assist graduate students with data collection at various times throughout the year. The individual will maintain all research equipment in the Saunders' lab and help maintain project databases (i.e., enter field data, proof and clean data, archive data). She/he will conduct preliminary analyses for some datasets, assist in writing annual reports and other deliverables (e.g., peer-review publications), and give field tours and extension presentations for projects to local, state and regional audiences.

The position will be based at Purdue University's West Lafayette campus, although there will be extensive travel throughout the year. The individual should be comfortable with collecting field data in adverse environmental conditions typical of the Midwest. All candidates must be U.S. citizens due to security restrictions at NSWC – Crane.

Qualifications:

Required

- B.S. in Forestry, Fire Ecology, Restoration Ecology or closely-related field
- One year of field work experience
- Coursework or experience in dendrology, forest inventory methods, forest ecology, silviculture, experimental design and statistics
- Ability to implement silvicultural prescriptions and treatments
- Ability to collect spatially-explicit field data, proof field data for errors, and input data into databases
- Familiarity with chainsaws, brush saws, and other vegetation management equipment
- Possess or quickly obtain a valid U.S. driver's license and have a good driving record.

Preferred

- M.S. in Forestry, Fire Ecology, Restoration Ecology or closely-related field
- Demonstrated technical and/or scientific writing (e.g., management plans, reports or manuscripts)
- Coursework or experience in fire ecology and/or fire behavior, data management, GIS
- Experience driving with a trailer

To apply, please use the following link: <https://careers.purdue.edu/job/West-Lafayette-Research-Assistant-Agricultural-and-Environmental-Sciences-IN-47906/616451700/>. With your online application, please upload 1) a cover letter, including the names and contact information for three references, and 2) a resume or curriculum vitae. You do not need to submit a teaching or research statement, but please fill out all remaining sections to the best of your ability. Questions may be directed to:

Mike Saunders
Associate Professor of Hardwood Silviculture
msaunder@purdue.edu
765-430-1440

The successful applicant(s) will be subjected to a comprehensive background check managed by Purdue University's Human Resources department. The final hire is contingent upon clearance of this background check.

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action employer, fully committed to achieving a diverse workforce.