



## USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

- Position.** Eastern Washington Climate and Monitoring Resource Assistant
- Duration.** 8 Month Fellowship (32 weeks): Starting February 2024 – October 2024 (dates are approximate and dependent upon the start date)
- Location.** Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor's Office, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801 **OR** Colville National Forest Supervisor's Office, 765 S. Main St., Colville, WA 99114
- Reports To.** The Climate and Monitoring Resource Assistant will report to the Eastern Washington Area Ecologist (based in Wenatchee, WA) and the Colville National Forest Botanist (based in Colville, WA).

### Job Overview

The Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests are looking for a resource assistant to provide project and monitoring support for the forest's climate change and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLRP) Programs. The resource assistant will work closely with staff across both forests to help collect and review ecological monitoring data related to forest health, threatened whitebark pine, invasive species and fire effects, and synthesize and incorporate climate change information into National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) documents and reports. The resource assistant will be responsible for assisting in logistics, planning and data collection for monitoring efforts, and for creating products for interdisciplinary teams to use in local project planning. The resource assistant will be expected to plan and carry out the assignments independently. The work will occur both in an office and in the field. When in the field, there may be regular and recurring exposure to inclement weather conditions. Work may require special safety precautions and/or protective clothing and equipment.

The Climate and Monitoring Resource Assistant is part of a cohort of 20 climate change-focused internships that will receive specialized training and opportunities to engage with other members of the cohort. This position can be based in either Wenatchee or Colville, WA with both virtual and in-person work required, and housing assistance will be available. The internship will run from approximately February 2024 – October 2024.

### Responsibilities and Duties

This position will assist the climate change coordinators and the ecology and botany programs on the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests to develop tools and provide extra capacity to implement Forest goals. This includes jumpstarting the incorporation of climate change analysis and consideration into project planning documents and implementing ecological monitoring on threatened whitebark pine, fire effects, and for the North Central and NE Washington Vision 2020 CFLRP projects.

50% Climate Change Coordinator Assistant:

- Develop products or templates for Forest specialists to streamline climate change incorporation in forest projects
- Synthesize available tools and datasets for interdisciplinary teams to use during project development



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- Develop analyses or considerations of the effects of climate change on the landscape as a result of no project action to incorporate into a thorough evaluation for project planning
- Assist climate change coordinators on both forests to build partnerships, expand environmental justice initiatives and develop explicit climate change focused projects

## 50% Ecological Monitoring and Tasks as Assigned

- Coordinate with various programs to implement monitoring data collection and analysis, including wildfire & fuels, Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), and whitebark pine monitoring
- Works with area ecologists to summarize data and develop collaborative monitoring reports

## Qualifications

- Recent completion of a Bachelor's degree or currently enrolled in an graduate program in natural resources, environmental science, ecology, botany, or a similar program, or equivalent combinations of education and experience.
- Knowledge and understanding of ecological principles, concepts, and practices. Additional knowledge of or experience with climate change science, fire ecology, landscape ecology, botany, or forestry a bonus.
- Experience collecting ecology and/or botany field data.
- Some experience with field data collection applications and/or programs such as Avenza, Survey 123, Field Maps and GIS applications such as ArcMap, ArcPro or Q-GIS is desirable.
- Experience with Microsoft Office Suite products such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Experience with statistical or spatial analysis programs a bonus, though not required.
- Ability to navigate over rough and steep terrain using GPS while visiting project work sites, including considerable walking stooping, bending, and climbing. Position may also require lifting and carrying of moderately heavy items, such as equipment and samples that weigh less than 50 pounds.
- Experience writing or editing technical reports, fact sheets, presentations, or equivalent materials.
- Strong communication skills, including working with and presenting information to diverse teams and audiences.

## Minimum Requirements

- Completion of 4 years at an accredited university, a Bachelor'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