

Postgraduate (BS, MS) Fellowship Program Opportunity

Research & Development

Forest Service

USDA

Arlington, VA

FS-2012-200

Project Description:

A postgraduate fellowship project is available (via the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education) at the research and development (R&D) arm of the U.S. Forest Service (FS). R&D works at the forefront of science to improve the health and use of our Nation's forests and grasslands. Research has been part of the Forest Service mission since the agency's inception in 1905. Today, some 500-plus Forest Service researchers work across the country and internationally in a range of biological, physical, and social science fields to promote sustainable management of the Nation's diverse forests and rangelands. The work focuses on informing policy and land management decisions, whether it addresses invasive insects, degraded river ecosystems, or sustainable ways to harvest forest products.

The fellowship will be primarily focused in the Fire and Fuels Strategic Program Area (FF SPA) of FS R&D. The FF SPA provides the knowledge and tools that managers use to reduce negative impacts and enhance beneficial effects of fire and fire management on society and the environment. The Fire and Fuel SPA conducts research in 5 focus areas:

- Core fire science, including physical fire processes, fires characteristics at multiple scales, and fire danger assessment.
- Ecological and environmental fire science, including fire effects on ecosystem components, and fire and environmental interactions.
- Social fire science, including public interactions with fire and fuels management, socio-economic aspects of fires and fuels management, and organizational effectiveness.
- Integrated fire and fuels management research, including management strategies at multiple scales; treatment and disturbance effects on ecosystem components; and forest operations, including biomass utilization and product development associated with fire and fuel management activities.
- Science delivery and applications for policy makers, wildland fire managers, and local communities, ensuring that knowledge generated by the Forest Service is transferred to user communities and adopted by them.

The Fellow will perform activities independently and as part of a team to support research outreach and communications efforts, policy analysis, strategic initiatives, and partnerships. Under the mentorship of the fire and fuels program leader, the Fellow will:

- Help develop materials documenting the accomplishments of Forest Service fire and fuels research
- Help develop and maintain a webpage (content and layout) to showcase R&D's fire and fuels research

- Develop communication and marketing materials to increase use of fire and fuels research
- Communicate with research station scientists about current research and policy issues, funding and science collaboration opportunities
- Contribute to science planning and policy evaluation at a national level
- Contribute to science syntheses on high priority or emerging issues

In addition to supporting the Fire and Fuels SPA, up to 50% of the Fellow's time may be spent supporting other research programs including invasives, genetics, forest pathology, silviculture, rangeland ecology, and climate change.

This position provides an opportunity to:

- Learn about natural resource research and policy issues at a national level
- Gain first-hand knowledge of the Forest Service's fire and fuels research program
- Improve science delivery to managers and other partners
- Understand and contribute to the intersection of science and policy

The fellow will have the opportunity to interact with scientists in our research stations and managers in the National Forest System. This is primarily a headquarters-based fellowship, but opportunities to support field research are possible. The fellow may explore options for future graduate research and take advantage of additional training opportunities.

Qualifications:

Strong candidates for the position will have:

- experience in fire and fuels research, policy, and/or management
- demonstrated strong written and verbal skills
- ability to effectively synthesize information
- experience with website design/management and publishing software a plus

Applicants must have received a Bachelor's or Master's degree in ecology, biology, environmental science, or a related field within five years of the desired starting date.

This appointment is full-time for one year and may be extended for an additional three years upon the recommendation of the Forest Service and availability of funding. The annual stipend range for this position is up to \$55,430, depending on qualifications.

Housing, transportation and relocation costs will not be paid. Taxes and other federal, state, and local deductions are the responsibility of the Fellow. There will likely be opportunities for some professional travel during this appointment. The fellow must show proof of health insurance. Health insurance is available through Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). If the fellow selects coverage under the ORISE policy, a supplement to the stipend may be provided to offset a portion of this expense. The fellow does not become an employee of the Forest Service or ORISE.

The program is open to all qualified individuals without regard to race, sex, religion, color, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, or status as a Vietnam era or disabled veteran. U.S. citizenship required.