

## **Postgraduate (BS, MS) Fellowship Program Opportunity**

Research & Development

Forest Service

USDA

Arlington, VA

FS-2012-100

### **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). The Forest Service's Research and Development Deputy Area (R&D) is the largest conservation research organization in the world. Its in-house and extramural research runs from basic to applied with a strong emphasis on technology transfer. It serves a broad and diverse set of customers, playing a critical role in support of science-based planning on our National Forests and supporting land management activities on other government lands as well as on the private forestlands that play a dominant role in the national landscape.

The World Wide Web plays a key role in R&D's science delivery, and this fellowship will play a critical role in improving that capacity. R&D offers content that is rich and varied but delivered via a diversity of technologies and designs. The result is organizational silos of information confusing to visitors with little consolidation or overview at the top levels. The Fellow will work with Communications and R&D leadership to strengthen our national communications and provide a focus for a more consistent, holistic view of content that 1) orients visitors with an accessible, engaging and comprehensive view of the scope of our endeavors, 2) recognizes and highlights the most important discoveries from across R&D, and 3) exploits improved tools for the self-discovery of needed information based on emerging nationally-consistent data and search tools.

The Forest Service is transitioning to new web hosting and site design standards. The Fellow will act independently and as part of a team to help R&D leverage that opportunity. Under the mentorship of Science Quality Services leads, the Fellow will:

- Work with content specialists in the WO to update and enhance existing content
- Identify gaps in content or opportunities for rearranging content and page design to improve message delivery and utility to stakeholders and other customers
- Interpret and communicate to national web content providers web activity patterns and the insights they provide into customer characteristics and needs
- Recommend ways to leverage external websites or social media channels to improve our connections with stakeholders, giving proper attention to government policies
- Act as liaison for R&D with Office of Communications and the Chief Information Office's Web Services program on web-related issues and efforts.

This position provides an opportunity to:

- Learn about natural resource research and policy issues at a national level while helping integrate information from all our diverse research areas

- Work with leadership to develop new methods of delivering science to land managers and other partners
- Gain first-hand knowledge of the Forest Service's web communication processes
- 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. While this is primarily a headquarters-based fellowship, opportunities to support field efforts 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 research, policy, and/or natural resources
- 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, fisheries/wildlife management 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 from \$42,209 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.