

# ECO AmeriCorps

2024-2025



## **Monitoring and Outreach Specialist**

UVM - Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative, 705 Spear St, S Burlington, VT 05620

FEMC Mission: To serve the northeast temperate forest region through improved understanding of long-term trends, annual conditions, and interdisciplinary relationships of the physical, chemical, and biological components of forested ecosystems. FEMC also promotes the efficient coordination of multi-disciplinary environmental monitoring and research activities among federal, state, university, and private-sector agencies with common interests in the long-term health, management, and protection of forested ecosystems.

Position Supervisor: Ben Porter - Monitoring Coordinator

The monitoring coordinator manages the on the ground functions of direct and indirect FEMC monitoring projects. These projects include forest health monitoring, meteorological stations on the lakes and in the mountains, an air quality site in Underhill, VT, and additional projects that FEMC may participate in through short-term partnerships. On top of the field aspect, additional responsibilities include helping with data analysis and report writing. The Forest Health Monitoring program is a main focus. The field season runs from June through August and includes pre-season prep and planning for managing field crews to visit plots in 7 states throughout New England and NY.

### The Role:

The ECO member will assist with two core programs of the FEMC. The first is the delivery of our Forest Health Monitoring summer field program. The ECO member, with oversight from FEMC staff, will help plan and implement the summer field program and apply quality assurance and control procedures to field data collection and data entry. The second is the development and delivery of the annual FEMC

Conference held in December each year. The ECO member, with the FEMC staff and planning committee members, will hone the theme, identify potential speakers and solicit participation in the keynote, contributed talks, poster sessions and working group sessions for the conference. In addition, depending on the ECO member's skills and interests, the member will provide trainings to area K-12 students in forest measurement techniques, act as a field crew lead for the Vermont Forest Health crew, assist with meteorological and air quality monitoring station maintenance, attend events to promote the FEMC, support cooperators in utilizing FEMC's data archive services, and/or provide analytical and outreach support for FEMC partner projects.

The ECO member serves as a valuable team member to our small staff as extra hands are always needed and provide the benefit of learning opportunities for the ECO member. Help with the FHM program and Conference planning is a huge help to our small staff.

The ECO member will use forestry tools such as DBH tape, hypsometer, and clinometers to record forest health data on trees across the state. They will receive training in air quality monitoring protocols to collect rain water samples at our Underhill site. They will help check and analyze forest health data to track changes to forest structure and health using software such as Microsoft Excel and ArcGIS.

### Essential Functions:

Assist with planning and implementing the summer field program and communicating results in meetings and written reports

- Apply quality assurance and control procedures to field data collection and data entry through field and headquarters tasks;
- Assist in developing the Annual Conference by planning logistics, identifying potential speakers, and soliciting participation in contributed talks, poster sessions and working group sessions for the conference;
- Develop and deliver online and in-person training materials for the FEMC Data Archive;
- Provide trainings to area K-12 students in forest measurement techniques
- Attend events to promote the FEMC through presentations and tabling

### Secondary Functions:

Assist with meteorological and air quality monitoring data collection in addition to;

- Provide analytical and outreach support for FEMC partner projects based on skills and interests of the ECO member. Past projects have included developing a forest indicators dashboard for Vermont, a risk model for streams impacted by hemlock woolly adelgid, and other analytical projects;
- Support cooperators in utilizing FEMC's data archive services;
- Depending on the skills and interests of the member, serve as the crew leader for two to three summer interns. - Field visits will require up to 8 hours of travel in a rental vehicle. Ability to hike up to 6 miles per day with 20lbs is required. Member should expect to do several stints of camping for 3-4 nights at a time during the course of the season. There may be days where, due to travel, the ECO member will be expected to serve for 10+ hours (when daylight allows).

### Desired Qualifications:

- Ability to identify northeastern tree species;

- Ability to manage and manipulate large amounts of data and information in Microsoft Excel or equivalent program;
- Ability to hike long distances over rough terrain and camp overnight in remote field locations;
- Ability to interact with people of diverse educational, professional and cultural backgrounds;
- Familiarity with Esri GIS software and spatial analysis concepts (or willingness to learn);
- Ability to organize and prioritize tasks efficiently and seek feedback as needed;
- Familiarity with forest inventory tools and measurement techniques;
- Experience planning large events, workshops or conferences;
- First aid certification or training.

What initiatives has your organization undertaken to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ)?

Our parent institution (UVM) provides numerous supports, including training opportunities, that our staff have taken advantage of. FEMC staff are skilled in affirmative recruiting, and have recently initiated an internal conversation about how to better integrate DEIJ principles into our work, from considering who we invite to serve on advisory committees to how we value or represent different forms of ecological knowledge. In addition, many of our staff take active roles in promoting these principles outside their professional lives. As an organization we are open and encourage continual learning of DEIJ principles and how they can be applied to the work that we do at FEMC. In past years, ECO service members have taken on an integral role of helping organize and run our DEIJ committee meetings, create a field SOP for safer and more inclusive field work, and the continuing project of creating a regional land acknowledgement for the work we do regionally. DEIJ is an integral part of the ECO members service with us.

How is climate resiliency part of the work your organization does?

Our FHM program is rooted in understanding how forests are adapting and changing due to external stressors such as climate change. We also monitor air quality and meteorological data for the USGS and NOAA which is directly tied to climate action.

Networking Opportunities

Much of the work the FEMC takes part in is about building relationships with cooperators in the region and providing high quality services that meet those cooperators' needs. As a part of our team, the ECO member will have the opportunity to participate in a number of meetings and projects with our partners. In addition, the two core activities the ECO member will take part in will provide ample opportunity for networking. The Annual Conference provides a great chance to network, both in the development of the conference by reaching out to potential contributors, and during the day of the conference. In addition, by helping to execute the field season, the ECO member will interact with program leads from both the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the USFS Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests. The outreach and engagement service will provide many other venues for the ECO member to meet members of the public and interested professionals.

Misc:

Hiking boots Day pack Rain gear Tent Sleeping bag Headlamp Personal vehicle (not required, but highly recommended). Reliable vehicle expected.

We would be happy to help the member find housing groups, local clubs and resources, and other weekend activities. Our staff is very welcoming and knows the areas well.

Variable conditions to be expected. Office, snow, rain, heat, bushwhacking, bugs.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Be a US citizen, a national, or legal permanent resident alien of the U.S.;
- Be at least 18 years of age upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation (there is no upper age limit);
- Be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate or be willing to work towards their GED as part of their service-year successful completion requirement. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps. If a member has a documented medical reason/professional opinion why they cannot finish high school, they might be eligible; call in this case;
- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check;
- Must submit to Agency of Human Services checks, i.e. Adult Abuse and Child Abuse Prevention;
- Be committed to the ECO AmeriCorps program, and its ethic of service and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way

To Apply: [My AmeriCorps - Home Page](#)

Position begins September 17th 2024 and ends August 15th 2025

**The State of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Positions are open to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran's status, religion or creed.**



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