



September 2020- August 2021 Service Year POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title

Monitoring and Outreach Specialist

Sponsoring Organization

Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative
Burlington, VT

Sponsoring Organization's Mission

The mission of the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative (FEMC) is 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. The 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. FEMC works towards its mission and goals with a professional staff, web-based Project Library and Database, education and outreach programs, and continuing efforts to support and coordinate the region's forest ecosystem interests.

Goals for the ECO AmeriCorps Position

This position will be responsible for implementing several core FEMC programs. The ECO member will deliver a high quality forest health monitoring program, enhance existing and develop new opportunities for Cooperators to network and learn, engage K-12 students in learning about forest assessment techniques, and serve with FEMC staff to promote the FEMC program within the state and across the region. The ECO member in this position will develop a portfolio of service they lead, develop new connections with professionals in the environmental monitoring arena, and serve closely with a skilled and diverse group of FEMC staff members.

Essential Functions. Functions that the applicant must be able to perform

- Deliver the Vermont Forest Health Monitoring program by serving as the crew leader for three to four summer interns, taking responsibility for data entry and quality control, and presenting results in meetings and written reports;
- Help lead the development of the Annual Conference by honing the theme with FEMC staff, identifying potential speakers, and soliciting participation in the keynote, contributed talks, poster sessions and working group sessions for the conference;

- Provide trainings to area K-12 students in forest measurement techniques;
- Attend events to promote the FEMC through presentations and tabling.

Marginal Functions. These are secondary to Essential Functions, may be negotiable, and can be completed as time allows.

- Assist with meteorological and air quality monitoring data collection;
- 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.

Projects May Include

The ECO member will lead two core programs of the FEMC and assist with several others. The first is the management of our Forest Health Monitoring summer field program. The ECO member, with oversight from FEMC staff, will plan and implement the summer field program, serve as guide for three to four summer interns, and take responsibility for the data entry, quality control and presentation of results in meetings and written reports. The second core program 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, the ECO member will provide trainings to area K-12 students in forest measurement techniques, 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, depending on the skills and interests of the member, provide analytical and outreach support for FEMC partner projects.

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;
- 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;
- Familiarity with scripting languages such as R or Python;
- Experience with database manipulation;
- First aid certification or training.

Networking Opportunities

Yes. Much of the work of the FEMC 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 of the ECO member will provide ample opportunity. 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 leading 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 work will provide many other venues for the ECO member to meet members of the public and interested professionals.

Service Conditions

This service will occur both outdoors and in indoors, depending on the season. During the summer, this service will primarily be conducted outdoors with potentially irregular hours as needed for accomplishing field activities. Outside the summer field season, the service will primarily be conducted in an office setting, with occasional travel to meetings and conferences.

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.