



USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position. Plant Pathologist

Duration. 8 Month Fellowship (32 weeks): Starting July 2024 through February 2025 (dates are dependent upon the start date).

Location. Forest Health Protection, Alexandria Field Office, 2500 Shreveport Hwy, Pineville, LA.

Reports To. Brian Strom, Field Office Representative.

Job Overview

The Forest Health Protection Plant Pathology Intern will accomplish scientific functions related to the study of tree and forest health, based on and requiring a professional knowledge of related sciences and the consistent application of basic scientific principles to the solution of theoretical and practical tree disease problems. The Internship will bring together the integrally related areas of forest health, biology, ecology, entomology, plant pathology and forestry with an applied focus on urban and wildland forested ecosystems.

Successful completion of the Internship, leading to permanent, full-time conversion to a professional Plant Pathologist with the U.S. Forest Service will:

- Complete a minimum of six months of directly related work experience.
- Meet the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Qualification Standards for the position to which the Intern may be converted to.
- Maintain acceptable performance under the agency's approval performance management system.
- Receive favorable recommendation for conversion from mentor/supervisor.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Help conduct evaluation surveys on State, Private, Federal and Tribal lands to determine status of forest pathogens.
- Conduct site visits to evaluate/identify forest health issues. Determine causal agents after diagnostic process.
- Analyze data and prepare initial reports. Make recommendations on pathogen management methods.
- Coordinate project design and implementation with FHP staff.
- Participate in suppression and prevention projects to reduce adverse impacts of pathogens.



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- Make recommendations on proven reforestation, harvesting, and silvicultural practices which will reduce losses caused by tree diseases.
- Plan and conduct training of State, Private, Federal and Tribal land managers in the identification of injurious plant pathogens, the damage they cause, methods and concepts of biological evaluations and the fundamentals of preventing losses by sound forest management practices.
- Plan and organize pilot projects and field tests when assigned.
- Outreach work as assigned with a wide range of partners and clients.
- In-state or out-of-state travel for 20% or less of time.

Qualifications

- Education (Degree): plant pathology; or a related scientific discipline that included at least 20 semester hours in basic botany or plant science, and 10 semester hours in plant pathology.

OR

- Combination of education and experience -- course work as shown above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Minimum Requirements

- At least one year of specialized experience related to this position in addition to the degree above OR a master's graduate degree in Plant Pathology or two full years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to such a degree.
- US citizenship or permanent residency. RAs must undergo a government background check if selected.
- Participation in US Forest Service Orientation Training scheduled for June 2023