



USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position. Climate Change Fellow

Duration. 8 Month Fellowship (32 weeks): June 2023 – February 2024 (exact dates will depend on the start date)

Location. Position is virtual. Forest Service Office is the USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Lakewood, Colorado. There could be opportunities to travel to the region during the assistantship.

Reports To. The Climate Change RA will report to the regional Climate Change Coordinators.

Job Overview

This position is part of a cohort of 20 climate change-focused internships that will receive specialized training and opportunities to engage with other members of the cohort.

This opportunity is with the USFS Rocky Mountain Region (Region 2) regional office. Region 2 is an ecologically diverse region spanning Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. The region contains eleven national forests and seven national grasslands.

The Resource Assistant will be a member of the regional climate change cadre, which is composed of regional and forest/grassland personnel who help the region accomplish its mission by identifying and implementing actions that enhance climate resiliency across ecological and social landscapes. The climate cadre is an interdisciplinary team collaborating across multiple program areas, creating ongoing opportunities for the RA to engage with diverse specialists working in natural resource management, planning, engineering, recreation, research, fire, and more.

Examples of activities that the climate cadre is currently undertaking include drafting a region-specific Climate Action Plan; hosting climate change vulnerability and adaptation workshops across the region; hosting a climate change and sustainability community of practice; and distilling and disseminating climate change resources to practitioners to help them incorporate climate change and carbon considerations into their programs of work.

Responsibilities and Duties

In order of importance, provide a bullet point list of the responsibilities and essential duties of this job, including the travel percentage, if necessary.

- Assist with the drafting and organization of the regional Climate Action Plan.
- Assist with planning and hosting climate change adaptation workshops.
- Help to develop tools and templates to make it easier for forest- and grassland-level managers to incorporate climate change considerations into project planning and implementation.
- Support the development and expansion of a regional climate change community of practice.
- Update and maintain the regional climate change website.



- Assist with completion of baseline carbon assessments for each unit in the region.
- Compile information that will be reported in the Climate Action Tracker, the agency's monitoring tool of implementation of national and regional climate adaptation plan actions.
- Assist with facilitating meetings with Regional Office staff and points of contact in the field.
- Translate technical information into concise, plain language intended for nontechnical audience.
- Travel for climate adaptation workshops or other activities may be possible depending on interest of the applicant but is not required.

Qualifications

Provide a bullet point list of the qualifications that are necessary for someone to fill this position. Points you may wish to include are education level, major/degree, experience, specific skills, certifications and licenses, and physical abilities.

- Demonstrated ability to think critically and synthesize complex and technical information.
- Attention to detail.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision (important since the the assignment will largely be remote).
- Proficiency in verbal and written communication.
- Experience and/or education in a biological, physical, or social science.
- Passion and knowledge of climate change issues.
- Basic computer and web design competencies are a plus.

Minimum Requirements

- Completion of an associate degree or higher.
- US citizenship or permanent residency. RAs must undergo a government background check if selected.
- Participation at in-person US Forest Service Orientation Training scheduled for June 2023