



USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position. Climate Change Planner

Duration. 8 Month Fellowship (32 weeks): Starting June 2023 – February 2024 (dates are dependent upon the start date)

Location. USDA Forest Service Washington Office, 1400 Independence Ave., Washington, DC 20250

Reports To. Assistant Director, Planning and Public Engagement, Ecosystem Management Coordination.

Job Overview

Provide a brief description of the role, what success in the position looks like, and how it fits into the Forest Service and/or unit overall.

This position will work with the Planning and Public Engagement Staff in the Ecosystem Management Coordination group of the Forest Service Washington Office. Primary duties will be conducting a lessons learned analysis of climate components in Land Management Plans (LMP) that were written under the 2012 Planning Rule. This will include reviewing and synthesizing LMP as well as interviewing resource specialists. Subsequent work may include working with the Office of Sustainability and Climate to develop guidance for incorporating climate adaptation strategies into current and future LMP revisions. Other work may include supporting development of guidance for incorporating climate change vulnerability assessments into the assessment phase of LMP revision. Additionally, the position will help coordinate ongoing or potential work in response to the Secretarial Memorandum on Climate Resilience and Carbon Stewardship of America's National Forests and Grasslands. 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.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Advancing knowledge and understanding of climate change in Land Management Plans.
- Helping to develop guidance for Land Management Plan revision around climate change
- Support work around the Secretarial Memorandum on Climate Resilience and Carbon Stewardship
- Participate in regular meetings with EMC staff and collaborators
- Opportunity to participate in professional development opportunities

This position is in an office setting. The intern will be expected to participate in regular in-person and virtual meetings on Microsoft Teams. Occasional (quarterly) overnight travel may be required to attend in-person trainings and workshops.



Qualifications

Required: Bachelor's degree in biology, natural resources, environmental studies or policy, or related field and at least 6 months related experience. Experience can be in the form of summer internships or part-time positions while a student.

Preferred: Master's degree in any of the above fields or at least one year of related experience.

An ideal RA candidate would have the following attributes and skills

- Is passionate about public land management, strategic planning, and climate change
- Embraces and encourages innovation, brings a curious and creative mindset
- Can create and maintain positive relationships and fosters effective teamwork
- Promotes diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace
- Ability to synthesize and summarize technical information for different audiences, including the general public.
- Effective oral and written communication skills with technical and non-technical audiences.
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision as well as part of a team.
- Proficiency in interpreting and communicating scientific concepts.
- Experience producing written reports around natural resource topics.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office tools.

Minimum Requirements

- Completion of 2 years at an accredited university, an Associate's degree, or higher
- 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