



USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position. Climate Resource Assistant

Duration. 8 Month Fellowship: Starting February 2023 - September 2023 (dates are dependent upon the start date)

Location. Virtual or in-person at USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, 410 MacInnes Drive, Houghton, MI

Reports To. Maria Janowiak (maria.janowiak@usda.gov)

Job Overview

The Climate Resource Assistant will work with the USDA Forest Service and USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub to support the integration of climate change information into natural resources management. The assistant will work as a team member of the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS), a collaborative effort among the Forest Service, universities, conservation organizations, forest industry, and a tribal commission to provide information on managing forests for climate change adaptation and enhanced carbon sequestration. NIACS is a nationally recognized leader in supporting climate-informed responses on a wide array of natural resource topics.

The assistant will develop a wide variety of online and print materials describing how a changing climate may affect terrestrial ecosystems and land management activities across the US Northeast and Midwest regions. The assistant will work with the dynamic and engaging NIACS team to synthesize relevant research and create science-based information products across a variety of natural resources topics, including urban forestry, wildlife management, forested watersheds, and carbon mitigation. A primary activity will include tracking real-world demonstration projects for climate change adaptation (www.forestadaptation.org/demos) and prepare case study narratives describing real-world climate adaptation actions that land managers are utilizing to reduce climate risks. Additional tasks for science synthesis and delivery will be identified to maximize the skills of the assistant and to meet the needs of the NIACS team.



Responsibilities and Duties

- Create and update climate adaptation demonstration project case studies to highlight real-world approaches to responding to climate risks. Maintain database of projects and assist in evaluation of adaptation outcomes.
- Develop innovative science delivery products to share research results with various audiences, such as urban forest and community-focused natural resource managers.
- Design, write, and produce a wide range of materials, including presentations, briefings, brochures, fact sheets, web-based media, case studies, interactive activities, and tree planting lists.
- Collaborate effectively with scientists and natural resource managers to synthesize research information, assess climate-related risks, and translate results into non-technical language for a variety of audiences across the Northeast and Midwest US.
- Support trainings and workshops to convene natural resources professionals around topics of interest related to climate change and land management.
- Travel to meet with NIACS team, attend NIACS-hosted events, and participate in training and developmental activities (up to 20% of time).

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in natural resources, ecology, environmental science, or related fields.
- Excellent interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills.
- Experience organizing, prioritizing, and managing multiple work projects and types of activities, while meeting and managing deadlines.
- Experience working with natural resource management or conservation organizations.
- Ability to synthesize and summarize technical information for different audiences, including natural resources professionals.
- The ability to work independently with minimal supervision as well as part of a team.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office tools and virtual meeting software required. Experience with website development or graphic design desirable.

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 February 2023