M.S. Opportunity at Purdue University: Chestnut oak decline and mortality

We are seeking a motivated M.S. student to become part of a collaborative project between the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection Program, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University. The student will evaluate the recent loss of chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*) in hardwood forests and identify the biotic and abiotic factors that may explain the high levels of decline and mortality observed in southern Indiana and other states.

The position is budgeted for two years beginning in the spring semester of 2021 and includes a graduate stipend, tuition waiver, and access to employer assisted health insurance.

Applicants should have a GPA of 3.2 or higher. GRE scores are not required, but may be submitted.

Desired qualifications: an undergraduate degree in forestry, plant pathology, botany, ecology, plant science, biology or a related field; experience conducting field research; and interest in forest ecology and health.

To apply: Prospective applicants should send, via e-mail attachment, a brief letter of interest, CV (including GPA and contact information for three references), and unofficial transcripts to Mike Jenkins (jenkinma@purdue.edu). We will begin reviewing application materials immediately and continue until a candidate is found.

Women and individuals for other historically under-represented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Purdue University is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action employer.

About Purdue: Purdue is a land-grant university of over 40,000 students and is ranked the 5th best public university in the U.S. by *The Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education*. Located in West Lafayette, Indiana, Purdue is an easy drive from Indianapolis and Chicago. The Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) is housed administratively in the College of Agriculture (#8 world ranking); emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches across a broad spectrum of natural-resource sciences; and offers vibrant, nationally ranked graduate programs in ecology, forestry, fisheries, and wildlife. The West Lafayette-Lafayette area is home to a diverse community with a population of 174,000, good schools, safe neighborhoods, over 40 parks and extensive trail systems, active farmers’ markets, and year-round community festivals and art events.