

M.S. Opportunity at Purdue University: Long-term change in high elevation spruce-fir forests of the southern Appalachians

We are seeking a motivated M.S. student to become part of a collaborative project between the National Park Service and the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University. The project will resample permanent vegetation plots in Great Smoky Mountains National Park to examine the long-term dynamics of high elevation spruce-fir forests. The MS students will spend a summer field season living near and working in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The position is funded for two years beginning in January 2022 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, botany, ecology, plant science, biology or a related field; experience conducting field research, navigating in rugged backcountry, and backpacking and camping in remote locations; interest in forest ecology and invasive insects.

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 materials on August 2, 2021.

Women and individuals from 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 was ranked the 9th 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.

