



Graduate Research Assistantship in Applied Forest Ecology and Hydrology



The University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources is seeking a MSc or PhD graduate student to participate in a research project examining the effects of emerald ash borer (EAB)-induced mortality and associated adaptation strategies in black ash wetlands in the upper Midwest. The student will join a team of collaborators from the University of Minnesota, the USDA Forest Service-Northern and Pacific Northwest Research Stations, the Natural Resources Research Institute, and the University of Vermont who are evaluating the ecological impacts of EAB across the upper Midwest. The project utilizes a large-scale experimental manipulation of forest structure using simulated EAB mortality and adaptation treatments on the Chippewa National Forest in northern MN. The student will provide an assessment of carbon pools and hydrology responses to the experimental treatments. Research will involve summer field work at the Chippewa National Forest to measure plant and soil carbon pools, and analysis of long-term water table dynamics. The student will be responsible for conducting field and lab work in support of project goals, analyzing data, and preparing peer-reviewed publications.

The start date is somewhat flexible, but preferably the student will begin field work in Summer 2023 with classes beginning fall 2023 at the UMN Twin Cities campus. The position includes an annual stipend (~ \$24,600 annually), tuition waiver, and health insurance with additional support from teaching and research assistantships.

Qualifications: B.Sc. or M.Sc. in silviculture, forest/wetland hydrology, forest/wetland management, forest/wetland ecology, or a closely related field. Applicants must be able to work independently, but also cooperatively with other researchers working on the larger project. Knowledge of soil and vegetation sampling, wetland hydrology techniques, and statistical methods is desired. Applicants should have a strong work and leadership ethic, and demonstrated writing and quantitative capabilities.

Interested candidates should submit their CV, undergraduate transcripts and GRE scores (optional), and a cover letter. The position will be open until filled; submit your application materials for full consideration by October 21, 2022.

For more information and submission of applications materials please contact either:

Dr. Rob Slesak (robert.slesak@usda.gov) or,

Dr. Brian Palik (brian.palik@usda.gov)