

Opportunity Title: USFS Fellowship in Climate and Forest Management

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-USFS-NRS-2023-0460

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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A complete application package consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Selected candidate must provide proof of completion of the degree before the appointment can start. Click [Here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV
- Two educational or professional recommendations. At least one recommendation must be submitted in order for the mentor to view your application.

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

Application Deadline 1/5/2024 11:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description *Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis.

USFS Office/Lab and Location: A research opportunity is available with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS) at the Forest Service Northern Research Station located in Durham, New Hampshire.

The USDA Northeast Climate Hub is a joint effort among USDA agencies. The fellowship offers daily interaction with leadership, policies and staff of the US Forest Service, Agricultural Research Service, and Natural Resources Conversation Service. This project involves partnership with Northeast Region Climate Center at Cornell University. The fellow will also have the opportunity to collaborate with other Land Grant University partners in our region and other natural resource professionals. Professional development activities as part of this fellowship include delivering presentations, participating in meetings, and engaging in research and outreach projects. The fellow will join an established portfolio of climate projects focused on forestry and agriculture in Northern Research Station.

USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station: Deliver the best possible science on forests and related natural resources. We develop the knowledge and tools that landowners and land managers rely on to improve the health and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands, and ultimately, improve the lives of the people we serve.

Climate Hub Vision: Robust and healthy agricultural production and natural resources under increasing climate variability and climate change.

Climate Hub Mission: Develop and deliver science-based, region-specific



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information and technologies to agricultural and natural resource managers, and communities, that enable climate-smart decision making, and to help implement those decisions.

The Northeast Hub is building collaborations connecting stakeholders to climate-related resources, and working to fill information gaps where needed.

Research Project: The ORISE Fellow will engage in research, collaboration, and outreach with the Northeast and Midwest Climate Hubs and partners at Cornell University's Northeast Region Climate Center on a project called "Using the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) to Support Adaptation Management and Planning in Forestry Across Multiple Time Scales" (herein called the "Forest Climate Indicators" project). The aim of the project is to align climate change indicators with the needs of forestry stakeholders. Tracking trends in weather and changes in conditions using indicators can help forest managers make decisions. The research team will co-develop relevant indicators with stakeholders and design ways to apply the indicators across various temporal and spatial scales. Identifying and quantifying changes in climatic change affecting forests using these indicators and real-time weather data will guide development and adoption of effective adaptation, resilience, and sustainability practices.

Learning Objectives: The ORISE Fellow will conduct research contributing to the Forest Climate Indicators project, and will engage in product co-production, outreach, and training at every stage of the project. They will gain feedback from project partners on their research methods, program design product development, and meeting project objectives. The Fellow will support outreach activities that promote research results and collaborations.

Specific components related to the project will include:

- Facilitate a series of stakeholder meetings with State, Private and Tribal foresters to identify relevant indicators.
- Contribute to the development of open-source software to compute indicators at historical, real-time, and future time scales.
- Collect management options related to the selected indicators documenting viable adaptation options for short-term practices and long-term changes that can be applied in-season to maximize productivity, minimize economic loss and address forest plan objectives.
- Contribute to the development of a web-platform linking the tools, map graphics, and management information such as those provided through extension publications.
- Outreach related to the use of the prototype tools to regional users, as identified during the stakeholder meetings.
- Outreach to other Hubs and Forest Service Regions related to adoption of the software infrastructure used in these tools to other regionally (and nationally) relevant indicators and decisions.
- Contribute to training manual development and workshop facilitation and trainings targeted at State, Private and Tribal foresters, Hubs,

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private industry, Extension, and other relevant audiences to facilitate use and expansion to other regions and indicator types.

- Contribute to peer-reviewed journal articles.

The ORISE Fellow will learn collaboration methods for co-production, partner and stakeholder engagement, product/tool development and project design. Additionally, the Fellow will learn and experiment with various approaches for engaging partners and communicating science to a specific audience.

Mentor(s): The mentors(s) for this opportunity is Erin Lane (erin.d.lane@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: January 2024. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for one year, but may be renewed upon recommendation of ARS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full time.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The current stipend for this opportunity ranges from \$69,107-\$71,436 per year.**

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR), and foreign nationals. Non-U.S. citizen applicants should refer to the [Guidelines for Non-U.S. Citizens Details page](#) of the program website for information about the valid immigration statuses that are acceptable for program participation.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and ARS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, ARS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

Questions: Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process, please email ORISE.USFS.NRS@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should have received a doctoral in one of the relevant fields or a closely related discipline.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.
- **Academic Level(s):** Postdoctoral or Post-Master's.

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- **Discipline(s):**

- **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([12](#))
- **Communications and Graphics Design** ([2](#))
- **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** ([17](#))
- **Earth and Geosciences** ([21](#))
- **Engineering** ([27](#))
- **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([14](#))
- **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([51](#))
- **Mathematics and Statistics** ([11](#))
- **Physics** ([16](#))
- **Science & Engineering-related** ([2](#))
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences** ([29](#))