

Opportunity Title: USDA Forest Service Social Science Research on Forest Recreation Experiences

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-FS-PNWRS-2024-0372

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-FS-PNWRS-2024-0372

How to Apply *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click **APPLY**.*

A complete application 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. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- 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.

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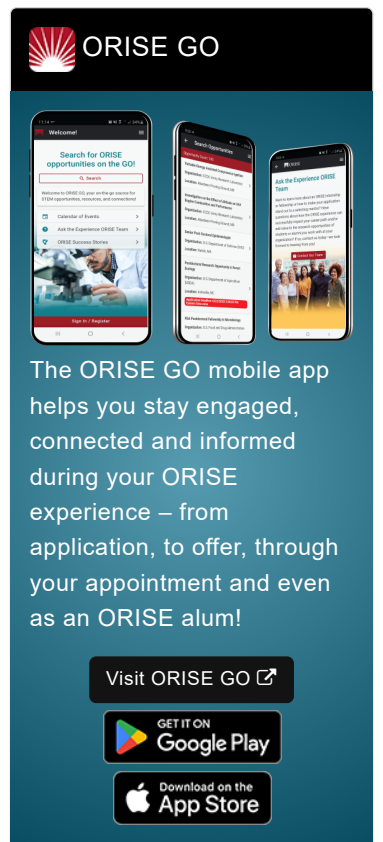
Application Deadline 1/17/2025 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description **Applications will be reviewed on a rolling-basis.*

USDA Forest Service Office/Lab and Location: A fellowship opportunity is available with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS) within the Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNWRS). Location is anticipated to be in Seattle, Washington, although other locations will be considered.


At the heart of the USDA Forest Service's mission is their purpose. Everything they do is intended to help sustain forests and grasslands for present and future generations. Why? Because their stewardship work supports nature in sustaining life. This is the purpose that drives the agency's mission and motivates their work across the agency. It's been there from the agency's very beginning, and it still drives them. To advance the mission and serve their purpose, the USDA Forest Service balances the short and long-term needs of people and nature by: working in collaboration with communities and our partners; providing access to resources and experiences that promote economic, ecological, and social vitality; connecting people to the land and one another; and delivering world-class science, technology and land management.


Research Project: The fellow will contribute their skills to studies of experiential qualities of forest-based recreation at landscape scales. Spatially explicit trip reports, in which people describe their recreation experiences, will be one of the primary data sources for this research. The


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fellow will draw on literature in outdoor recreation, visitor use management, data science, and other fields to develop innovative research approaches to answer questions about when, where, and how often different outdoor recreation experiences occur, and their outcomes for people. The fellow will join a team of scientists from the U.S. Forest Service and University of Washington to develop and implement research projects that help inform wildland recreation management.

Learning Objectives: The fellow will have opportunities to strengthen their research skills by engaging in the full cycle of research activities, including developing research questions and methods, reviewing literature, analyzing data, writing publications for peer review, and presenting results to scholarly and managerial audiences.

Mentor: The mentors for this opportunity are Eric White (eric.m.white@usda.gov) and Monika Derrien (monika.derrien@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentors.

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: January 2025. 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 extended upon recommendation of USDA Forest Service and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: 40 hours/week participation is preferred, but part time participation will be considered.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The monthly stipend rate at 40 hours/week for this opportunity ranges from \$5,200-\$6,700.**

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. Foreign national candidates may have a mandatory in-person requirement depending on visa status.

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 USDA Forest Service. Participants do not become employees of USDA, USDA Forest Service, 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

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email ORISE.USFS.PNWRS@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing or have received a master's or doctoral degree in the one of the relevant fields. Degree must have been received within the past five years, or anticipated to be received by 6/30/2025.

Preferred skills:

- Educational background in outdoor recreation management, sociology, leisure studies, environmental studies, natural resource management, or related fields.
- Familiarity with social science theories related to nature-based experiences.
- Experience qualitatively or quantitatively analyzing text-based data.
- Familiarity with programming languages such as R or Python and machine learning techniques for quantitative analysis of text data.
- Ability to troubleshoot, problem-solve, prioritize tasks, and research independently.
- Excellent organizational, teamwork, and communication skills.
- Excellent writing skills and interest in learning about the development of scholarly publications.

Eligibility Requirements • **Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or currently pursuing.

• **Discipline(s):**

- **Communications and Graphics Design** ([1](#))
- **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** ([17](#))
- **Earth and Geosciences** ([1](#))
- **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([14](#))
- **Mathematics and Statistics** ([3](#))
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences** ([30](#))