Job announcement

Summer Field Assistant needed for project: “Mapping recovery of vegetation from wildfires in Alaska under a changing climate”

A NASA postdoctoral scientist at Ames Research Center is looking for a field assistant for the 2021 and 2022 seasons (June-Sept) near Fairbanks, Alaska. The goal is to provide ground-truthing (GT) of recent (2017-2019) AVIRIS-NG images collected by the NASA ABoVE Terrestrial Ecology program to assess ecosystem structure and function of five recently burned sites (2001-2013) in Alaska’s interior near the city of Fairbanks, by measuring five characteristics of resilience identified in the literature: 1) postfire tree seedling recruitment, 2) understory cover, 3) thermokarst/seasonal permafrost thaw, 4) pest/disease/boreal browning, and 5) annual woody tree growth. Fieldwork will consist of tree density counts, seedling/sapling counts, canopy height measurements, percent cover estimates of understory vegetation, permafrost depth measurements, tree coring for radial growth measurements, and pest/disease classification in 30 plots (4-6 circular plots per site, 10.36 m radius) in burned and unburned forest.

The ideal candidate has previous fieldwork experience or relevant experience in Alaska’s back country. Must be willing to hike rugged terrain carrying field gear and work long hours in all weathers. Must have basic knowledge of Alaska’s flora and be able to identify invasive plant species. **Valid driver’s license and own rain/mosquito gear is a must.** Candidate must take all required safety training, have emergency evacuation insurance coverage during the field season, and follow coronavirus safety procedures. Candidate will wear and know how to safely use a bear mace canister while in the field. Licensed firearm owner is a plus. Experience/willingness to operate all-terrain vehicle (ATV), outboard motorboat, or airboat is desired. Must be willing to take short helicopter trips to sites if necessary. Salary is $15/hour, 30 hrs/week, approx. 300-400 hours for the summer. Must provide own lodging and meals (Fairbanks area). Transportation to and from sites can be provided, but own vehicle is a plus. Students and post-graduates desiring field experience for a career in ecology, wildlife biology, botany, fish and game, forestry, or Alaskan/Northern studies are encouraged to apply. If interested, please submit resume and three references to Diane Huebner at diane.c.huebner@nasa.gov.

Application deadline: April 1, 2021 or until filled.