

FOREST RESTORATION ECOLOGY INTERNSHIP

SPRING and/or SUMMER 2022

USING PLANTS TO CONTROL BUCKTHORN

The forest ecology lab in the Department of Forest Resources at the UofM, funded through the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center, seeks undergraduate or recently graduated students with a background or interest in field biology, ecology, environmental science, forestry, or a related field for paid field research internships. Interns will take vital roles in several large scale experiments that ask how to use native plant species (trees, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers) to suppress buckthorn re-invasion and improve restoration of buckthorn-invaded woodlands and forests in the Twin Cities metro area.

Duties: Duties vary by season and project and include establishing new experiments (site delineation and planting); monitoring the growth of experimental plants, both buckthorn and planted species; measuring light availability; measuring plant species composition; weeding experimental plots; maintaining deer fences; removing fallen trees; and generally assist with experimental needs. Interns will work as a team (or occasionally solo, for example with data entry), supervised by post-doctoral researchers.

Dates: Full season internships could run from the start of April until at least the end of September, potentially mid October. Shorter internships are possible within this timeframe. For example, spring internships that focus on planting new experiments would run April – May. Summer internships could run May/June – August/September.

Hours: Summer (mid May – end August): Full time (approximately 40 hours per week);
Spring and fall (April, early May, September): Full time OR part time. For part time, need large time blocks (at least 4 hours, preferably a full day) some days each week to make it worthwhile, given travel time.

Pay: \$15.00 per hour

Required qualifications:

- Interest in field biology, ecology, forestry, restoration, plant propagation or environmental science
- Dependable, motivated, with integrity and a strong work ethic
- Strong skills in communicating and working with other team members across differences
- Flexible team structure: a small team (often), a large team (occasionally), or solo (occasionally)
- Attention to detail in repetitive work, and diligent adherence to standardized protocols
- Flexible work hours: adapt daily plans to weather; early starts in summer to beat the heat; some post-sunset light measurements in late summer
- Willing to work with plants in a wide range of field conditions across the Twin Cities, including varied weather, steep terrain, and biting insects
- Strong organizational skills, and proficiency in Google Drive for data management
- Access to a reliable vehicle to reach the multiple field sites, up to 40 miles from the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus (mileage reimbursement available)
- Ability to walk lightly in the woods from plot to plot causing minimal damage to vegetation and frequently bend, squat, kneel, or otherwise reach the ground to perform tasks at ground level for up to 8 hours (aside from breaks provided for by state law)

Preferred:

- Experience identifying woody and herbaceous plants in Twin Cities area woodlands
- Eligible for student employment at the UofM Twin Cities

We strongly encourage applications from candidates from **all backgrounds**, including but not limited to: racial and ethnic minorities, women, individuals who identify with LGBTQ+ communities, individuals with disabilities, individuals from lower income backgrounds, and/or first generation college students.

Contact: Questions and applications should be directed to Mike Schuster, Artur Stefanski and Peter Wragg via email (coveritup-hire@umn.edu). To apply, please email a cover letter and CV/Resume.

In your cover letter, please include contact information for two references and answer the following questions *as specifically as you can at this time* (bullet points in this sequence would be great). If you are interested in both part-time spring work and full-time summer work, please answer these questions separately for spring and summer.

- 1) What are your desired start and end dates?
- 2) What, if any, absences do you have planned or anticipate between these dates?
- 3) What are your desired total hours per week?
- 4) Which days of the week and times of day can you consistently work?
- 5) Will you have access to a reliable vehicle to travel to field sites?
- 6) Are you eligible for student employment at the UofM? (For spring: taking 6+ credits this semester? For summer: taking 6+ credits this semester *and* plan 6+ credits next fall?)

Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.