**INTERNSHIP - SUMMER 2020**

**USING PLANTS TO CONTROL BUCKTHORN**

**Duties:** We are hiring two student interns to take key roles in a suite of ongoing field experiments in the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Minnesota funded through the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center. The experiments, established in spring 2017 following large-scale buckthorn removals, ask how to use native plant species to suppress buckthorn re-invasion and improve restoration of buckthorn-invaded woodlands and forests. They also examine the roles of herbivory, fire, and herbicides in this process. Primary duties will be to re-locate experimental units; plant and monitor the growth of test plants; weed small plots; measure light availability multiple times through the season; measure plant species composition; maintain deer fences; remove fallen trees; and generally assist with experimental needs. Depending on skills match, secondary duties may be to assist the program’s Citizen Science Coordinator ([https://coveritup.umn.edu](https://coveritup.umn.edu)) with developing materials and supporting participants. The two interns will work as a team, supervised by two post-doctoral researchers.

**Dates:** May – August, 2020, with some flexibility. Positions could start part-time as early as March, depending on weather and intern availability. Similarly, extension through October may be possible depending on intern availability.

**Pay Range:** $12.00 - $15.00 per hour, depending on experience and duties

**Hours:** Approximately 40 hours per week (May – August)

**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: interns will work as a pair (or with one or both post-docs) for different tasks
- Attention to detail in repetitive work, and diligent adherence to standardized protocols
- Flexible work hours: adapt daily plans to weather; light readings need uniform sky conditions, and gray days are typically too few, so pre-sunrise or post-sunset readings will be needed on up to 21 days through the season; potentially a few long day-trips to a forest diversity experiment at Cloquet
- 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
- 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 meal and bathroom breaks mandated by state law
- Student status (6+ credits in Spring 2020 and intending a full class load in Fall 2020)

**Preferred qualifications:**
- Experience identifying herbaceous and woody plants in Twin Cities area woodlands
- Access to a reliable vehicle to reach the multiple field sites, up to 34 miles from the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus (mileage reimbursement available).

**Contact:** Questions and applications should be directed to Mike Schuster and Peter Wragg via email ([coveritup-hire@umn.edu](mailto:coveritup-hire@umn.edu)). To apply, please submit a cover letter and CV/Resume. In your cover letter, answer the following questions:

1) What are your desired start and end dates for summer?
2) What, if any, planned absences do you have over the summer?
3) Are you available for field work in the Spring or Fall semesters? If so, which days and hours?

Applications received before February 17, 2020 will receive full consideration.