

Methow Valley Ranger District

Forest Restoration Practicum

Supervisor:	Eireann Pederson, Silviculturist
Salary:	\$14.49/hour, 24 hours/week for 10 weeks
Period of Employment:	June 21, 2022 – August 26, 2022 3 days per week
Participation Requirements:	Living in the Methow Valley for the summer Enrollment in UEPP 471 Campus Sustainability Planning Studio course Meets 2 days per week (3 credits) Optional internship credits are available but not required (up to 8 credits)

Overview

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is one of the largest forests in Region 6 with six Ranger Districts. The Forest covers more than 4 million acres in Washington State. The Forest has a diverse program from the high, glaciated alpine peaks along the Cascade Crest and the numerous mountain ranges extending eastward from the crest, through deep, lush valleys of old growth forest, to the dry and rugged shrub-steppe country at its eastern edge. It stretches north to south from the Canadian border to the Goat Rocks Wilderness - a distance of about 180 miles. The forest lies east of the Cascade Crest, which defines its western boundary. The eastern edge of the forest extends into the Okanogan highlands, then south along the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers, and then to the Yakima River valley. Elevations range from below 1,000 ft. to over 9,000 ft. Precipitation varies widely - from more than 70-inches along the crest to less than 10-inches at its eastern edge. This of course greatly affects the forest and vegetation types across the area.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is involved in numerous interagency and collaborative efforts, state, county and federal. The Forest is a leader in implementing a Forest restoration strategy that recognizes the role of fire adapted communities and wildlife. There is a demanding and complex fire workload and there is a strong and long-standing relationship with the Washington department of natural resources, especially in wild land firefighting. This Forest is also noted for a wide range of year-round recreation opportunities and 1.5 million acres of wilderness.

Methow Valley Ranger District: The Methow Valley Ranger District is 1.4 million acres in size; 600,000 acres of it is included in two wilderness areas – the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth. There are also several large Roadless areas. The Methow Valley Ranger District has over 300 miles of fish-bearing streams and 120 lakes. There is an

abundance of diversity of fish and wildlife including three fish species and five wildlife species federally listed as threatened or endangered. Recreational opportunities abound in both winter and summer. There are 35 trailheads and hundreds of miles of maintained trail; 26 developed campgrounds; and 18 livestock grazing allotments. Two national scenic trails pass through the district: The Pacific Crest and Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trails.

Responsibilities

The incumbent performs technical duties in timber stand improvement, timber sale preparation reforestation, and tree improvement to support forest health and restoration across the Methow Valley Ranger District.

- Inspects contracts for reforestation, timber stand improvement, or genetic tree improvement work such as planting, thinning, fertilizing, release, stand exam, cone collection, site preparation, and animal damage control.
- Examines plantations to determine present tree stocking and survival, tree species and conditions, presence of plantable areas for replanting or interplanting, competing vegetation species and density, and evidence of animal, insect or disease damage.
- Collects and classifies cones as to species and condition, and selects trees for tree improvement and reforestation cone collection.
- Assists in preparation of contracts for planting, thinning, fertilization, release, etc., by performing unit traverse, map preparation, and providing data for contract preparation and unit examination.
- Operates chainsaws and other power equipment to implement thinning, planting, pruning, fire suppression and other silvicultural objectives. Performs maintenance and cleaning of power equipment and hand tools.
- Independently applies silvicultural prescriptions and marking guides to designate harvest timber.
- Independently applies the instructions issued in a cruise plan. Takes and records tree measurements, assesses quality, and determines defect. Prepares and processes cruise data.
- Assists in laying out timber sales. Traverses harvest unit boundaries, road locations, and determines area. Brings to attention of responsible individual situations where specific prescriptions do not fit ground conditions.

- Executes timber cruises and sample surveys to develop resource information and estimate quality and quantity of timber for purpose of appraisal, sales administration, management planning, and logging plans on areas that have been predetermined and have few complicating factors.
- Assists higher level technicians with the preparation of timber sale appraisals and contract packages.
- Assists with monitoring and inspecting timber sale operations.
- Participates in other aspects of resource management support work such as recreation, maintenance, fire management, etc.
- Observes and reports areas of possible archeological significance, and sightings of sensitive, threatened or endangered wildlife species.

Required Qualifications and Experience

- Ability to perform office/computer work
- Reliable transportation
- Familiarity with basic computing programs such as Microsoft Office suite
- Familiarity and comfort with Google Earth mapping software. GIS or other GIS software familiarity a bonus.
- The work is performed in a forest environment where terrain may be uneven, rocky, and covered with thick vegetation. Climatic conditions range from extremely hot and dry to extremely cold and wet. Rain, snow, wind, or dust may be encountered. The work involves regular and recurring risks or discomforts that require safety precautions or the use of safety equipment such as boots, gloves, goggles, and hardhats.
- The work involves moderate to strenuous physical exertion such as long periods of standing, walking over rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces, and bending on a regular and recurring basis.
- The ability to work some longer days (10+ hrs) and weekends is not mandatory but preferred.
- Ability to work in a team, give and receive feedback, and willingness to abide by all COVID-19 safety guidelines

Educational/Professional Benefits

- Practical knowledge of forestry methods and techniques to carry out assigned work.
- Knowledge in the use of measuring devices and accurate recording techniques needed to recognize inconsistencies in order to report on resource conditions.

- Knowledge of plant and tree species in the area, what different animal, insect and disease damage looks like, and what plant competition is in order to collect needed information and summarize what is found.
- Knowledge and basic skills in oral and written communications and math, to analyze field data, prepare reports and records

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<https://sustain.wvu.edu/pathways>

Please direct all questions to Sustainability Pathways Director, Joshua Porter at:

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