

MS Position in Forest Health

The Bisbing Forest Ecology & Silviculture lab at the University of Nevada – Reno is seeking a MS student with expertise in forest or disturbance ecology and an interest in emerging forest health issues to lead a field-based study investigating the severity, drivers, and long-term impacts of widespread insect defoliator outbreaks across southeast Alaska. The student will be jointly mentored by Dr. Sarah Bisbing (UNR) and lead scientists at both the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station and USFS State, Private, & Tribal Forestry Program. Research will be based out of Juneau, Alaska from May to August of each field season (2024 – 2026) but will require regular travel across the region via float plane, ferry, and/or helicopter to reach remote islands.

Ideal candidates will be prepared to begin a field season in Alaska beginning in May 2024 and to attend classes at UNR in August 2024. Two years of guaranteed research associate funding are available to cover a graduate stipend (\$26,400/year) plus tuition, travel, supplies, and two supporting field technicians.

Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's of Science with emphasis in forestry, forest ecology, silviculture, ecology, or related field.
- Ability to work independently in both field lab settings but also engage productively and collaboratively with the larger lab group.
- Experience leading field crews and the ability to plan, navigate, and lead a remote, field-based project.
- Strong quantitative skills and competency in R and ArcGIS.
- Extensive experience working in field settings with bonus points given for those with experience working in harsh conditions.
- A love of type II fun and ability to thrive under challenging field conditions, across tough terrain, through travel delays, and in inclement weather.

Candidates should explore the requirements for graduate school applications at: <https://www.unr.edu/grad>. Candidates should also explore the two potential MS program options under Dr. Bisbing's mentorship - 1) Ecology, Evolution, & Conservation Biology or 2) Natural Resources & Environmental Science.

For more info on the lab's science and members, check out <https://www.sarahbisbing.com/>. For details on the current insects and disease outbreaks in southeast Alaska, see <http://www.fs.fed.usda.gov/main/r10/forest-grasslandhealth>.

To apply, please send a single, compiled PDF file to sbisbing@unr.edu including a cover letter, CV, transcripts, representative publications (if available), and contact information for three references. Review of applications will begin January 22nd, 2024 and continue until the position is filled.