

Seasonal Forestry Research Field Assistant

Agency: University of Alberta, [Ecosystem-based Management Lab](#)

Location: Based in Edmonton, AB, position requires travel to field sites near Grande Prairie, Pembina, and Peace River, AB

Compensation: \$18.50 per hour + per-diem and lodging when in the field

Term: May 1 through August 30, 2024 (start and end dates flexible)

Description: Vegetation management is a forestry practice used to manage competition, allowing trees to achieve increased growth potential and decreasing fire risk by reducing forest fuels. Forest practitioners seek alternatives to herbicide use for vegetation management due to growing public concerns over human and environmental impacts. The successful applicant will assist a graduate student in examining the impact of sheep grazing for vegetation management on competing plants, tree seedlings, and fire risk in grazed and fenced plots.

The field assistant will work with a graduate student to collect data for this study, including clipping and weighting vegetation in small sample areas, estimating percent cover and average height of competing plants, and measuring and noting damage to tree seedlings. Additionally, we will assess ignitability with two-minute match drop tests.

In addition to working on this project, the field assistant will spend the first few weeks of the season as part of a team of graduate students and field assistants preparing sites for planting for a tree diversity experiment with five different species near Peace River, AB.

Accommodations: Field accommodations will be covered and primarily include shared hotel rooms. Occasional camping may be required (equipment provided). Transportation between Edmonton and field sites provided.

Schedule: The team will follow a 10 days on / 4 days off work schedule, averaging 10 hours/day. Per-diem and accommodations provided while on hitch, as well as transportation between Edmonton and field sites. Schedule subject to change based on project needs.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ability and willingness to travel to and work in the field for up to 10 days at a time.
- Ability and willingness to work outdoors in difficult conditions, including inclement weather, extreme heat, uneven terrain, and nuisance insects.
- Valid, non-graduated class 5 driver's license issued in Canada or the United States, and comfortable driving a truck.
- Authorization to work in Canada. Priority will be given to Canadian citizens between 18 and 30 years of age, due to Canada summer jobs funding.

Desired Qualifications: All interested persons are encouraged to apply, regardless of experience.

- Interest in forestry, ecology, natural resources, or related fields.
- Experience conducting fieldwork in forestry or other natural resource fields.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Excellent attention to detail and ability to precisely follow written protocols.
- First aid certification preferred.
- Willingness to do defensive drivers training, a training session offered on campus as part of the onboarding process (2 hours)
- Pursuing or holding a degree in forestry, natural resources, or related field.

To apply, please send a resume, cover letter describing your interest, experiences, and qualifications, and contact information for 2-3 references to mharnett@ualberta.ca. Please send your documents in PDF format with “Forestry Research Field Assistant” in the email subject line.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position has been filled. You may reach out to Marin Harnett (mharnett@ualberta.ca) with any questions. Thank you for your interest!

Equity and Diversity:

In the Ecosystem-based Management Lab, we seek to create an inclusive culture that embraces the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). We encourage applications from BIPOC, LGBTQ2SI+, and individuals of historically marginalized communities.

