Postdoctoral Research Fellow:
Forest Landscape Ecology

Review of applications will begin on February 1 2023 and will continue until an excellent candidate is found

The Harvard Forest invites applications for a post-doctoral research fellow focused on analysis of Northern New England forest landscape. The project seeks to understand the impacts of alternative ownership and management structures on forest conditions and evaluate alternative options for future management. The successful candidate will be a member of Dr. Jonathan Thompson's Landscape Ecology Lab and also work closely with Dr. Valerie Pasquarella. The research is funded, in part, by a Dynamics of Integrated Social Ecological Systems grant and, in part, by the Harvest Forest Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) program. The candidate will conduct retrospective forest disturbance analyses using the Landsat archive within Google Earth Engine and project alternative forest futures using an existing landscape modeling framework. The candidate should be interested in quantifying opportunities and risks associated with the use of forests in climate change mitigation. While there are some sideboards on the research topics, there is also substantial flexibility regarding the exact specification of questions and methods.

Work Environment: The position is based at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA. The Lab is a team environment, but the actual research conducted by this post-doc will require substantial independence. Please learn more about our Lab here.

Required Qualifications: Ph.D. (awarded by start date) in ecology, forestry, geography, or related field; Evidence of strong scholarship, including first-authored peer-reviewed publication(s); Proven ability to plan and conduct research projects from beginning to end; Interest in translating and communicating research for land-use policy.

Preferred Experience: Conducting complex spatial analyses (e.g., GIS, remote sensing, spatial statistics); experience with Google Earth Engine and/or using landscape and/or earth system models (LANDIS-II, CLM); analysis of large datasets (e.g., FIA, PADUS, Census, NWOS); skilled at scripting within the R and/or Python programming languages.

Appointment: There is some flexibility around the start date, but sooner is preferable. Initial appointment of one year is renewable based on performance and funding.

Salary and benefits: The position comes with an annual salary of at least $54,840. Outreach/career development opportunities include funding for local and national meetings. Postdocs are entitled to 20 days of vacation per year. This position is eligible for Harvard University's subsidized comprehensive medical, dental, vision, and other benefits. Most of the benefit plans require a contribution from participants for coverage.

COVID-19: The University requires all Harvard community members, including remote workers, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and remain up to date with COVID-19 vaccine boosters, as detailed in Harvard's Vaccine & Booster Requirements. Individuals may claim exemption from the vaccine requirement for medical or religious reasons. More information regarding the University's COVID policies may be found at the University's COVID-19 webpage.

To apply: Apply through ARIeS, the Harvard University applications portal, here. You will need a cover letter, CV, PDFs of relevant publications, and the contact info for three references. Reference letters will be required for the finalists.

The Harvard Forest Community: Harvard Forest, a department of Harvard University, is an internationally recognized center for basic and applied research in ecology and conservation, with 40 full-time staff. The Forest includes a research and administrative complex, 4000 acres of land, and residential buildings. The Forest is located in Petersham, a rural, north-central Massachusetts town of 1,200 residents. Petersham is 1 ½ hour drive west of Cambridge.

Harvard Forest is committed to establishing a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community. We have initiated a series of staff-wide trainings and formed a standing committee to build competence in DEIB. We are working toward including Indigenous knowledge and communities in our research and education, land use, and public programs, improving field safety, and diversifying our team of investigators and educators. We welcome, recruit, develop, and advance talented staff, students, and visiting scholars from diverse backgrounds, and strive to ensure that all are included in our mission. We particularly encourage applications from members of groups that have been historically underrepresented in the sciences and others who demonstrate the ability to help us achieve our vision of a diverse and inclusive community.

Harvard University is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions, or any other characteristic protected by law.