Graduate Assistantship in Forest Measurements and Analyses

This assistantship will allow the recipient to pursue a full-time course of study leading to a PhD degree in Forest Measurements and Analyses. The award provides a competitive 12-month stipend and health insurance for three years (subject to performance), starting January 2018.

The project is part of a collaborative study with Dr. Leah Rathbun at the USFS Pacific Northwest region (lrathbun@fs.fed.us). The successful applicant will be involved in a project that examines the use of high-density airborne LiDAR data to improve the accuracy of stand delineation, classification, and mapped forest inventory information for Pacific Northwest Forests. The development of spatially-explicit information describing forest type and structure over a region is critical for land managers to assess restoration needs, in developing new policy, for modeling ecosystem processing, managing critical habitat, mitigating forest fuels, and monitoring forest change through time. In keeping with the importance of spatially-explicit information, the incumbent will examine the use of ancillary information (e.g. other remote-sensed, field, or modeled data), to provide reliable, cost effective, applicable and repeatable stand- and landscape-level estimates under varying stand density and structure, and seeks to examine a combination of parametric and non-parametric methods to improve thematic and spatial accuracy of inventory variables, including stand delineation and classification at multiple spatial scales.

Oregon State University is located in Corvallis Oregon between Portland and Eugene. Ocean beaches, lakes, rivers, forests, high deserts, and the Coast and rugged Cascade Ranges are within a 100-mile drive of Corvallis. For information about the College of Forestry at OSU, visit http://www.cof.orst.edu/

Qualified candidates should have strong quantitative and programming skills and should have a basic understanding of forest management and ecological processes. Interested candidates should send their transcripts, GRE scores (unofficial ones are acceptable initially), a statement of research interest, and two recommendation letters to:

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Closing date: Dec. 15, 2017 or until the position is filled.