

Lead Summer Research Technician Job Description

Holt Research Forest

Maine Timber Research and Environmental Education (TREE) Foundation

Supervisor:

Paulina Murray, Research Manager

Holt Research Forest, Maine TREE Foundation

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Job Description:

Maine TREE Foundation seeks a Lead Field Research Technician for the 2025 and 2026 summer field seasons to contribute to the Forest Legacies Project. This project evaluates the long-term effectiveness of retention forestry practices for conserving late-successional and old-growth forests by re-sampling forest patches in areas logged 20 years ago.

The Lead Technician will oversee a small crew of field technicians conducting forest vegetation surveys across Maine, focusing on trees, shrubs, deadwood, and indicator lichen and moss species. This position offers an exciting opportunity to gain experience in leadership, data collection and analysis, and scientific research.

Fieldwork will occur throughout remote areas in western and northern Maine, requiring hiking while carrying equipment in varying and sometimes adverse weather conditions. Field housing and transportation to/from surveys will be provided. The Lead Technician will be responsible for scheduling and overseeing daily field operations and reports directly to Paulina Murray, Research Manager at Maine TREE Foundation.

Primary Tasks/Responsibilities:

- Hire, supervise, and coordinate a team of field technicians to ensure smooth execution of data collection activities.
- Train research technicians in research protocols, data collection methods, and equipment usage.
- Set up and operate field research equipment, including data collection devices and monitoring systems.
- Conduct forest vegetation surveys following established protocols, ensuring accuracy and consistency.
- Manage and process data including cleaning, formatting, and storing datasets for analysis.
- Ensure adherence to all safety protocols during field operations and travel
- Provide regular progress updates to the Research Manager.
- Coordinate travel logistics, housing arrangements, and daily field schedules.