

M.S. Opportunity at Purdue University: Forest ecosystem response to invasive plant control in the Great Lakes Region

We are seeking one motivated M.S. student to become part of an NRCS-funded project in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University. The overall goal of the project is to assess the plant community response, cost effectiveness, and potential unexpected impacts of invasive species control through federal assistance in the Great Lakes Region. The MS student will survey private forests to determine post-treatment abundance of invasive plants and the composition and diversity of native species. In addition, the MS student will develop metrics to assess the effectiveness and unexpected impacts of different control treatments.

The position is funded for two years beginning in the spring semester of 2023 and includes a graduate stipend, tuition waiver, and access to employer assisted health insurance.

Applicants should have a GPA of 3.2 or higher. GRE scores are not required, but may be submitted.

Desired qualifications: an undergraduate degree in forestry, botany, ecology, plant science, biology or a related field; experience conducting field research, especially forest inventories and/or plant surveys; knowledge of and experience with the identification of woody and non-woody plant species; and interest in invasion biology and control.

To apply: Prospective applicants should send, via e-mail attachment, a brief letter of interest, CV (including GPA and contact information for three references), and unofficial transcripts to Mike Jenkins (jenkinma@purdue.edu). Review of materials will begin on September 26, 2022 and will continue until a suitable applicant is found.

Women and individuals for other historically under-represented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Purdue University is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action employer.

About Purdue: Purdue is a land-grant university of over 40,000 students and is ranked the 9th best public university in the U.S. by The Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education. Located in West Lafayette, Indiana, Purdue is an easy drive from Indianapolis and Chicago. The Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) is housed administratively in the College of Agriculture (#8 world ranking); emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches across a broad spectrum of natural- resource sciences; and offers vibrant, nationally ranked graduate programs in ecology, forestry, fisheries, and wildlife. The West Lafayette-Lafayette area is home to a diverse community with a population of 174,000, good schools, safe neighborhoods, over 40 parks and extensive trail systems, active farmers' markets, and year-round community festivals and art events.