

PhD Assistantship in Forestry or Forest Ecology

The Western Forest Initiative at Utah State University (<http://westerforestinitiative.org>) seeks to fill a PhD position funded by the T. W. Daniels endowment. The selected student will work on projects in the T. W. Daniels Experimental Forest near Logan, Utah, and in the three largest annually-surveyed, spatially-explicit forest plots in the West, located in Yosemite, California (<http://yfdp.org>), Wind River, Washington (<http://wfdp.org>), and Cedar Breaks, Utah (<http://ufdp.org>). Prospective candidates can enroll in either the Forestry or the Ecology program.

The PhD student can conduct research on a variety of topics, for example: spatial relationships among woody plants, forest community resistance and resilience, forest canopy-snow interactions, fuel dynamics, climate-mediated forest change, plant-soil interactions, carbon sequestration, seedling dynamics, understory-overstory interactions, silviculture, or mechanisms and consequences of tree mortality. There will be considerable opportunity to interact with students, scientists, and academics affiliated with the Smithsonian Forest Global Earth Observatory (<https://forestgeo.si.edu>).

Five years of funding is available—eight semesters of research assistantship and two semesters of teaching assistantship. Those potentially interested should read the ‘Lab’ tab at <http://jamesalutz.com> for further details. Required qualifications include an MS degree in a forestry-, ecology-, or biology-related field; exceptional candidates progressing from a BS or from a different field of study will also be considered.

The position will begin on a mutually agreeable date; review of candidates is ongoing. To apply, email the following information in a single PDF file to james.lutz@usu.edu: (1) a cover letter describing your experience and rather specific research interests, (2) a CV, (3) unofficial transcripts, (4) GRE scores (and TOEFL, if required), and (5) contact information for three professional references.