

Mount Tahoma Field Ecology Internships (2024)

The Plant Ecology Group (at ETH Zürich and University of Washington) is looking for 1-2 undergraduates or postgrads for paid internship positions from early June to mid-August. We study how climate change (warming and declining snow) affect the forest trees and are looking for enthusiastic and hard-working interns to assist us with field work. Specifically, interns will help us collect long-term demographic data (growth, survival, reproduction) of forest trees in ten long-term forest stands on Mt. Tahoma, within Mount Rainier National Park. Tasks include sample collection, seedling censusing, data collection and reprogramming of microclimate sensors, site maintenance, and helping a team from Oregon State University census trees in the stands.

Requirements: Enthusiasm, attention to detail, reliability, hard work and the desire to work outdoors in all weather conditions are required. Additionally, you must have access to a car and a valid drivers license. An interest in ecology and / or environmental science, research experience, leadership ability, and plant identification skills are desirable, but not required. To be eligible, you must be a US Citizen or permanent resident.

Position Timing / Description: Internships are full-time, 40 hour per week positions running from June 10 until early August.

Benefits: Interns will learn A) how scientific research is conducted; B) field ecology skills; C) and how climate change will affect plant communities in the Pacific Northwest. These are valuable skills for those wanting a career in natural resources or conservation as well as those wishing to pursue a graduate degree in the life sciences.



2023 Field team censusing seedlings in the field.

Compensation / logistics: Interns will be compensated at \$30 / hour (~ \$4800 per month) which will be paid directly by ETH Zürich when interns submit invoices (1-2x total over the summer). US Taxes and social security will not be deducted, but interns will have to sign a contract agreeing to pay US taxes on this income. Mileage will be reimbursed at 0.67 USD / mile. Lodging (cabins / motels, some camping) will be covered for interns while in the field, but interns are responsible for housing themselves on the weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday nights). Camping gear (tents, stoves) will be provided, with the exception of a field pack, good hiking boots, field clothing, a sleeping bag and a mat. Interns will spend the majority of time in the field collecting data, with some time spent at University of Washington processing samples and/or entering data.

Applying for positions: To apply, please fill out this (see also QR code to the right). You will be asked to describe your interest in the position, your experience and skills, to provide the names and contact information of two references, and to upload a resume and transcripts (unofficial is fine). We will start evaluating applications on March 10, conduct (virtual) interviews in early April; and select interns by mid-April. Questions? Email Janneke HilleRisLambers (jannekeh@ethz.ch) or Eleonore Perret (eleonore.perret@usys.ethz.ch).

Please see the lab website (<https://plantecology.ethz.ch/>) for more information on research in the Plant Ecology lab.

