



United States Department of Agriculture

RESOURCE ASSISTANTS PROGRAM

Spring 2021 Cohort



Forest Service

April 2021





“The Resource Assistants Program is a unique opportunity to shape and influence the next generation of our workforce and exemplifies our core values of service, conservation, diversity, interdependence and safety. Working with partners the program is a resource to develop talented and diverse emerging professionals for natural resources and environmental careers with the Forest Service and in other sectors. Every new cohort presents an opportunity for the Forest Service to create new pathways in support of our workforce planing goals. Thank you to the Resource Assistants joining our team, and the Partners, host units and other staffs who make it possible.”

Tina Terrell, Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest System

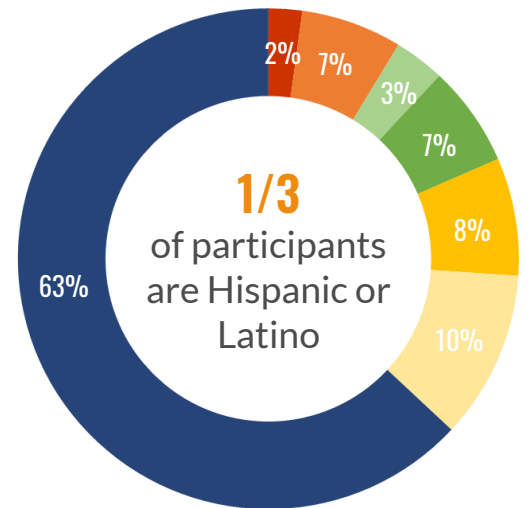
The **Resource Assistants Program** is a rigorous, immersive, paid development experience for emerging professionals.

Its primary goal is to **attract and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce for the Agency.**

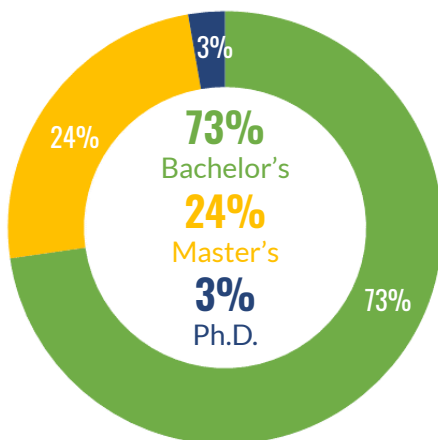
Resource assistants **accomplish mission-critical work** in all areas while developing leadership, critical thinking, and strategic communication skills.

Resource assistants work across many **disciplines.**

74% have degrees relating to natural resource sciences such as anthropology, forestry, hydrology, ecology, geology, and environmental science.



1/3
of participants
are Hispanic or
Latino



1 in 4
have a
graduate
degree



Northern Region (R1)



JOHN FENNEL

Custer Gallatin National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science & Technology, University of Maryland

I am interested in pursuing a career in natural resource management and aspire to become a program manager at the Forest Service. As a Boy Scout, I learned to be conservation-minded through responsible environmental stewardship. I look forward to fostering for others the kinds of activities I am passionate about: camping, backpacking, hiking, fishing, and hunting. I enjoy the outdoors, mountain biking, playing guitar, reading, cooking, and listening to podcasts on long drives.



JORDAN MAYS

Beaverhead—Deerlodge National Forest

M.Ed. Outdoor Recreation Leadership Management, Southern Illinois University

My career aspirations are to promote the natural world and enable the public to experience inclusive outdoor recreation. I hope to obtain a career with the Forest Service as a Recreation Management Specialist. I look forward to the opportunity to make a positive impact on our nation's public lands. I enjoy many recreational activities including mountain/road biking, paddling, wildlife viewing, fly fishing, rock climbing, and camping. I love playing guitar and exploring new places with my wife.

Rocky Mountain Region (R2)



LINDSEY BINDER

White River National Forest

M.S. Environmental Policy and Management, University of Denver

My career aspiration is to work for the Forest Service or another government land agency in order to help protect and sustain our natural resources so future generations can enjoy the outdoors and beauty that we have today. I hope to support environmental conservation, increase outdoor education, and connect more people to nature. I love to travel and explore mountain regions and new countries. My hobbies include mostly outdoor activities, especially hiking, backpacking, and camping in the mountains.

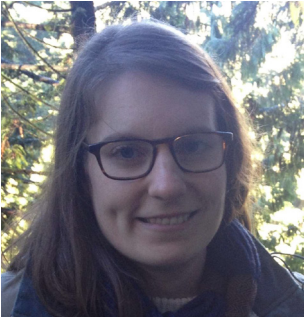


SANTIANNA HORSESON

Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

B.U.S. Community Building in Indigenous Settlements, University of New Mexico

My passion is to help build strong communities, working with Native American organizations to help ensure the proper management of natural resources and develop leadership focusing on the pillars of sustainability. I look forward to expanding my experiences with nature, learning new skills, building relationships, and finding new career opportunities. I enjoy hiking, running, art, books, and photography. Before the pandemic, I regularly pursued and participated in indigenous knowledge and culture.



MARYRUTH JACKSON

Black Hills National Forest

B.S. Environmental Studies, University of Iowa

My aspiration is to work for an organization that promotes natural resources management. Two professional pursuits that excite me are land stewardship and environmental education. I enjoy exploring the beauty and importance of the natural world, and I want it to be a part of sustaining it for future generations. My interests include hiking, camping, reading, watching hockey, spending time with my family, and, most recently, yoga.



KIMBERLY KAZANOWSKI

Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

B.S., Environmental Studies, University of Denver

I look forward to working with and in our natural spaces for a healthier environment. I want to spend my life doing what I can to restore and preserve our natural world so that all things may exist in harmony with one another! When I'm outside, I like to ski, climb, hike & backpack. I also love drawing and studying plant and animal biology!



ALEXIS KRAPAS

Grand Mesa Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests

B.S. Environmental Science and Resource Management, University of Washington

My ultimate career goal is to make an impact on the current environmental crisis. I look forward to participating in research and developing solutions that will bring harmony to the planet's relationship with humans. I'm eager to start my path towards making a difference and raising awareness. I spend most of my free time outdoors, particularly horseback riding, hiking, snowboarding, and playing tennis. I love anything creative and enjoy reading, painting, and baking.



FALLON ROSS

Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands

B.S. Natural Resource Ecology, Louisiana State University

I plan on gaining more field experience to acquire a strong understanding of the connections between public health, natural resources, and internal revenue. My focus is in disaster/sustainability management research with a desire to analyze trends, encourage public engagement, and help create mitigation plans. In the future, I hope to pursue a graduate program in environmental policy and economics. I enjoy hiking, traveling, cooking, painting, and dancing.



MAYA VELASCO

Medicine Bow—Routt National Forests and Thunder Bay National Grassland

M.S. Natural Resource Stewardship, Colorado State University

I hope to pursue a career in natural resource management where I can work with the land to balance multiple uses while protecting biodiversity. Specifically, my long-term career goal is to work for a federal land management agency. I'm looking forward to learning from the many talented people at the Forest Service and gaining hands on experience with a variety of projects on the forest. I enjoy reading, cooking, gardening, and doing anything outdoors.



ISABELA VILELLA-ARNIZAUT

Grand Mesa Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests

M.S. Biology (Ecology focus), South Dakota State University

I aspire to gain a lifetime career as a wildlife biologist with a federal organization like the Forest Service. I have a passion for science and conservation and would love to help protect and manage the amazing organisms on federal lands. Indoors, I like to indulge in a lot of artistic hobbies such as embroidery, painting and writing. I find a lot of joy in cooking and sharing my food. Outdoors, I adore camping and hiking, stopping frequently to admire as much wildlife or plant life that I can.



ELISHA YELLOW THUNDER

Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Resource Information Management

M.S. Natural Resource Management, South Dakota State University

I look forward to working in the realm of Natural Resource Management and conservation. I am very active in traditional Lakota arts. I love to bead moccasins and the like.

Southwestern Region (R3)



BELEN CORONADO

Kaibab National Forest

B.A. Environmental Studies, University of California Santa Barbara

I am passionate about the protection of public lands. I want to inspire others to connect with nature. I look forward to pursuing a career in the outdoor industry and/or environmental education. In my free time I enjoy hiking, gardening, and reading. I also up-cycle thrifted fabrics to make garments and quilts.



NATHANIEL HAGAN

Prescott National Forest

B.A. Adventure Education, Prescott College

I am pursuing a career where I can spend the most time outdoors as possible. My passions include being in the backcountry exchanging knowledge and experiences with others. My hobbies include fly fishing, sailing, backpacking, off road driving, sea kayaking, and mountain biking.



MADDISON MILLA

Kaibab National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science and Policy, Chapman University

My true passions lie in helping others, advocacy, and amplifying the voices of the underrepresented. My next academic goals include obtaining a master's degree in environmental management or education, and then pursuing a Ph.D. in Social Psychology with an emphasis on environmental psychology. My hobbies include spending time with family, traveling, biking, reading, and watching Marvel movies, Netflix, or Hulu.



JOSH SIDNEY

Coconino National Forest

B.S. Forestry, Northern Arizona University

I look forward to working with the staff in the Coconino and developing my professional skills. My passion is to help monitor and restore wetland ecosystems. I hope to help establish good relations between the Forest Service and local tribes like my tribe, the Hopi, to get Native American youth interested in STEM careers. My hobbies include hiking, digital and film photography, hiking and camping with friends, and long distance running. I hope to one day travel to other countries for work or leisure.

Intermountain Region (R4)



ESTHER DARANCIANG

Dixie National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science, Westminster College

I am passionate about creating meaningful experiences outdoors for all peoples. I love playing outside with my friends and spending lots of time on my bikes.



ANNAMARIE PAS

Payette National Forest

B.A. Environmental Studies and Sustainability, DePaul University

My professional aspirations are still shaping themselves every day. However, as of now, I am living out my dream of working for the Forest Service and gaining valuable experiences! My hobbies consist of canoeing and kayaking, listening to music, hiking, plant ID, and hanging out with family and friends.



DAWN SUITER

Dixie National Forest

M.A. Sustainable Design, Minneapolis College of Art and Design

As a designer and filmmaker, I enjoy creating thought-provoking visual communications that expose people to the effects of climate change and inspire them to enact change. My interests include exploring the outdoors, traveling to new places, cooking with food from my garden, nature photography, cinema, journaling, and listening to various music genres. As a Sustainable Designer in conservation, I'm passionate about closing the loop and maintaining a minimalist lifestyle.



JUSTIN TIDD

Dixie National Forest

B.S. Anthropology and Geography, California Polytechnic State University

I aspire to pursue a career in archaeology, and in doing so learn about new cultures and explore natural places all across the world. I love being outside, and my hobbies include camping, hiking, and fishing. I also enjoy riding my mountain bike as a way to discover new places in the outdoors.



MARISSA WEASELBOY

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

M.A. Anthropology, University of Nevada Reno

Memme hagani? As a Shoshone woman, I have a vested interest in protecting Newe Sogobia. My interest foremost lies in Indigenizing spaces through a decolonial lens that engages Indigenous communities and valorizes Indigenous knowledge. I enjoy spending time with friends and family as well as being active in my Native communities.



KEYANA WHITE

Fishlake National Forest

B.A. Anthropology, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

I love working as an archaeologist. I am especially interested in the archaeology of the Southwest, which was inspired by growing up in southern Arizona. I love that I get to be outside pursuing my passion and making contributions to our understanding of how people lived in the past.

Pacific Southwest Region (R5)



EMILY ANTUNEZ

Pacific Southwest Regional Office, Fire and Aviation Management

B.S. Ecosystem Management and Forestry, University of California Berkeley

I want to work with agencies like the Forest Service which align with my values and passion for wildlife conservation and natural resource management. I aspire to uphold the Forest Service’s mission to conserve and protect the health and diversity of the nation’s ecosystems. I hope to learn first-hand how to effectively manage and sustain ecosystems and their natural resources. I enjoy exploring the outdoors and going on long nature walks/hikes. I also enjoy knitting and teaching myself how to play the piano.



TADONISHA CAMPOS MEJIA

Tahoe National Forest

B.S. Fish and Wildlife Sciences (Marine Conservation Minor), Oregon State University

I am passionate about leading our generation into coexisting with wildlife and learning to appreciate our natural resources. I aspire to make conservation and management plans and to involve our communities in helping conserve wildlife. I look forward to being a wildlife conservation biologist, zoo curator, and wildlife rehabber. My interests are reptile shows, hiking, birding, martial arts, dancing, animal keeping, soccer, playing saxophone in marching and jazz band, and going to the gym.



NANCY CLARIN

Pacific Southwest Regional Office, Ecosystem Management

B.S. Environmental Studies, University of California Santa Barbara

I aspire to be continuously learning about the natural environment and how we can improve our relationship with it. I am especially interested in wetland ecosystems because of their potential to sequester large amounts of carbon from our atmosphere. I look forward to exchanging ideas with like-minded individuals. I enjoy playing different instruments with my siblings. I usually play the cello but have been picking up vihuela, typically played in mariachi groups.



RYAN COCHOIT

San Bernadino National Forest

M.S. Environmental Studies, California State University Fullerton

I love to work in the fields of botany, GIS, water/watersheds, and natural resource management. I enjoy turning old maps into 3D models, plant collecting, and 3-D mapping with LIDAR drones.



LEANDREW ESCOBEDO

Angeles National Forest

B.S. Forestry and Natural Resource Management, California State University Berkeley

I love being able to work outside and actively conserving public lands for others to use and for my potential future children to experience the beauty of nature. My biggest aspiration is to inspire more people to be environmentally conscious and visit the amazing place their taxes help to manage. I have always loved hiking and camping, and my love for the outdoors continues to grow. I also enjoy passing the time by listening to music and have been able to curate a few playlists on Spotify.

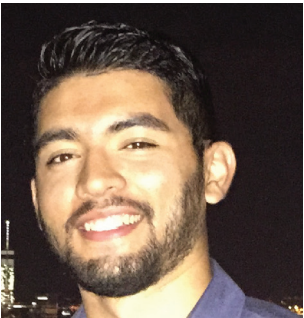


CHRISTIAN GARCIA GUTIERREZ

Mendocino National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science (Applied Ecology), California State University Chico

My professional pursuits are to make a difference in ecosystems at a national forest. The great outdoors is my passion, along with making a difference in the lives of younger generations. My aspiration is to make a difference in underserved communities by education and experience. Most of my interests involve the outdoors and range from hiking and backpacking, to hunting and fishing. My interests are anywhere I can expand my skills and knowledge and grow as a professional.



LIZANDRO GONZALEZ

Angeles National Forest

B.A. Geography and Sustainability, California State University Northridge

I hope to pursue a career which combines my interests in geography, conservation, sustainability, and the natural world. I aspire to work for the Forest Service, learn new skills and knowledge, and be in a position to engage in meaningful work that protects the environment. I enjoy great storytelling in books, movies, or television; I am a huge Star Wars fan. I absolutely love hiking and watching soccer and boxing. Before the pandemic, I used to love comedy shows, traveling, and exploring other cultures.



RUBY GONZALEZ

Sequoia National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science, Long Beach State

I am currently a Seasonal Park Guide, and my goal is to become a permanent GS-9 Interpretation Ranger. I look forward to expanding my knowledge on the Forest Service and adding new skills to my mental toolbox. I enjoy hiking, traveling, and learning new hobbies. I am currently learning how to use a sewing machine and make my own clothes. I am interested in fashion, and working towards an Associates in Fashion.



CHARLOTTE HADDEN

Lassen National Forest

B.S. Botany, Humboldt University

I want to become a Senior Forest Botanist and use my years of experience to help create policies, goals, objectives and strategies for habitat conservation and restoration. I look forward to saving as many biological species as possible! As a botanist, my hobbies are mainly plant related; hiking, camping, gardening, and cooking. I also love to roller skate, dance, and play instruments.



GESA HALLMAN

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

M.Sc. Architecture, Berlin Institute of Technology

I would like to gain experience in the environmental field to use and expand my skills for a career as a landscape architect or engineer for the Forest Service. I look forward to learning more about conservation and sustainably managing resources while being actively involved in a local project. I have a passion for designing and building spaces and objects. My hobbies include woodworking, designing and building custom furniture items, and exploring by hiking and biking.



KATHERINE HAVEMAN

Klamath National Forest

M.S. International Sustainable Tourism, University of North Texas

I aim to foster a connection to nature and develop conservationist attitudes in those of the community I serve. In outdoor recreation, I advocated for the accessibility of recreation and introduced others to these transformative experiences. My penchant for outdoor recreation has manifested in the form of rock-climbing, hiking, backpacking, kayaking, rafting, and hopefully one day, bike packing as well.



JENNIFER HERNANDEZ

Cleveland National Forest

B.S. Environmental Systems, University of California San Diego

Professionally, I would like to become an environmental planner for my hometown of Salinas, CA to help create a more affordable and sustainable city for its residents. I also want to eventually go to grad school to earn a master's in Environmental Planning. In the future I look forward to making green spaces and nature more accessible to marginalized communities! In my spare time I like to be with family, hike, and tend to my houseplants. You can also find me playing with the three cats I live with!



SARAH HERSEE

San Bernadino National Forest

B.S. Childhood Education, SUNY Geneseo

I am passionate about empowering youth through the outdoors. Professionally, I seek opportunities to develop and participate in programs that ensure equitable access to the outdoors for all youth. I consciously work to inspire environmental stewardship for future generations. In my free time I enjoy exploring the world through travel, books, food, hiking, and good conversation.



ZOE KAMINSKY

Pacific Southwest Regional Office, Ecosystem Services and Climate Program

B.S. Forest Management, Colorado State University

I hope to work toward a career in silviculture, through which I may write multiple-use management plans. I am passionate about pursuing collaborative stewardship projects within the Federal Government and beyond. I look forward to protecting federal lands, while also providing long-term, sustainable resources for future generations. My hobbies and interests include cooking, biking, playing music, and connecting with nature.



JONATHAN LE

Plumas National Forest

B.A. Environmental Science and Policy, California State University Long Beach

I aim to begin a career in natural resource management or conservation. I love the natural world and believe it must be protected. I hope to begin a productive career with the Forest Service. I enjoy hiking and camping whenever I can. I also enjoy cooking, archery, and martial arts.



ALEJANDRA LOPEZ CRUZ

Inyo National Forest

B.A. Environmental Science and Policy, California State University Long Beach

I am passionate about minimizing our impact through awareness, education, and environmental policies. I aspire to be a part of land, water, and wildlife conservation efforts for the health and biodiversity of our natural resources. I look forward to meeting people with similar interests and mentors who will help develop my skills and knowledge. I love long walks with my dogs, biking, hiking, and identifying local flora and fauna.



YADIRA MACIAS

Inyo National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science and Management, Humboldt State University

As a growing professional, I want to gain skills and knowledge in the field to educate people about natural resources while improving them. I am looking forward to serving people and the resources that need to be protected. I would love to continue networking with other resource assistants in my unit and hear about their experiences. I enjoy making art/illustrations during my free time. Identifying plants has been a new hobby that I picked up from a plant taxonomy class I took in college.



ZACHARY MALDONADO

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

B.S. Forestry (Wildland Fire Management & Geospatial Analysis)

Humboldt State University

I want to be able to help mitigate the catastrophic fires that have been plaguing California in recent years. I look forward to using my knowledge and skills I have attained from school to produce useful data and maps to help understand how to mitigate fires in California. My hobbies include camping, fishing, hiking, skateboarding, and working out. I also love indoor activities such as video games, cooking, and working on cars.



CASANDRA MAYS

Shasta—Trinity National Forest

M.E. Outdoor Recreation, Southern Illinois University

My long term goal is to connect people to the natural environment and help the present and next generation care for our planet. I hope to break down barriers to the outdoors by serving diverse populations and introducing people to the natural world through volunteer programs. I am an avid outdoorswoman, reader, climber, biker, bluegrass lover, and Netflix binger. I am happiest exploring new places with my husband, enjoying fresh brewed coffee, and being immersed in nature.



ERIC MEDINA CAN

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

*B.S. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Latin American Latino Studies
University of California Santa Cruz*

I am passionate about work that provides others with essential elements to wellbeing – like community, food-access, and education. I am interested in all kinds of activities that push me to explore the places around me, including long-distance running, rock climbing, and printmaking.



LIA MELIS

Plumas National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science, Northern Arizona University

My career aspiration is to implement significant climate change and conservation solutions through science or policy. I am interested in carbon sequestration, alternative energy sources, and ecosystem conservation. I would love to work outdoors and complete hands-on assignments. I enjoy the outdoors and love to snowboard, longboard, mountain bike, backpack, camp, travel, and roller skate. I enjoy working out, doing artwork, drawing, reading, and spending time with my cat, Meatball.



JAMI MILLAN

Eldorado National Forest

B.S. Recreation and Park Management, California State University Sacramento

I aspire to have a career that enhances the public's recreation opportunities and conserves the environment. I believe that nature is an amazing resource that should be protected and conserved for its value and for what it provides. I enjoy spending time outdoors including hiking, camping, and backpacking. While at home I enjoy cooking, spending time with my dog, and reading.



TATIANA MOGER

Modoc National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science and Management, University of California Davis

I aspire to have a career where I can apply my skills and knowledge to protect and preserve the environment for future generations. I have always felt a strong connection to nature and a passion for conservation. I hope to use my GIS skills to stay on the cutting edge of technology, so that I can approach environmental concerns in novel ways. I can usually be found reading, watercolor painting, baking, or gaming. I also enjoy listening to podcasts while training to run marathons.



KELLY MULLER

Inyo National Forest

B.S. Environmental Studies, Prescott College

Wilderness provides an opportunity of solitude, and escape from today's busy world. I aspire to dedicate my career to the stewardship and protection of Wilderness. I hope for a career with the Forest Service, which manages the most Wilderness, in which my decisions surrounding land management have a direct positive impact on my community. I love to spend my free time connecting with the land and its plants and animals. My favorite activities are backpacking, skiing, biking, and rafting.



KATIE PRATT

Cleveland National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science and Management, University of California Davis

I aspire to have a career that protects and cares for the environment by valuing biodiversity and ecological principles while still providing equitable access to people and communities. I hope to contribute to the creation of healthy environments to improve human health in a sustainable way by utilizing land use planning. I enjoy spending time outdoors and traveling to new places.



JORDAN RASURE

Klamath National Forest

B.S. Biology/B.A. Foreign Language (Spanish), Virginia Commonwealth University

Rivers will be a critical component to my career priorities and aspirations. I want to improve environmental equity and foster access to wild spaces for people who are traditionally underrepresented in the outdoor industry. I also want to study the implications of human recreation on these wild spaces so as to mitigate our innate need to be outdoors with policies and practices that will protect these precious places. I am happiest in a kayak on a river or on skis in the mountains.



ALEXANDRIA SABIDO

Klamath National Forest

Geography and Environmental Studies, Keene State College

I am extremely passionate about sustainability and ensuring equal opportunity for public outdoor recreation. I hope to encourage people to fall in love with nature and become advocates for sustainable development. I absolutely love the outdoors; I am an avid skier, climber, gardener, and hiker. I also love camping, kayaking, art, and yoga.



ROSA SANCHEZ

Angeles National Forest

B.S. Earth System Science, University of California Merced

My mission is to eliminate the disconnect between green spaces and BIPOC. Together, we'll educate and empower one another, working towards a more environmentally equitable earth. I can't imagine beginning this journey anywhere else than the Forest Service. Day to day, I enjoy walks in the sun with my furry friends, cooking all sorts of cuisine, and creating playlists.



DANIELLA SMITH

Inyo National Forest

B.S. Environmental Geoscience (African Diaspora Studies minor), Boston College

I aspire to a career at the intersection of human and environmental health, focused on the relationship between humans and their surrounding ecosystems. I am passionate about wildlife conservation after spending my last two summers conducting field research as a UCSC Doris Duke Conservation Scholar. I look forward to working for organizations which promotes conserving natural habitats. I love to travel and enjoy scuba diving, skiing, kayaking, hiking, camping, cliff jumping and seeking new adventures outdoors.



MAX STOLTZ

Sequoia National Forest

B.S. Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management, North Carolina State University

I am really interested in continuing my career in the Forest Service. I love helping others connect with nature and I am interested in developed recreation sites and management of those places. I love going to the lake and kayaking or just looking out at beautiful scenery and reflecting.



SAMUEL UTLEY

Lassen National Forest

B.S.E. Environmental Engineering, Arizona State University

I want to better educate myself on wildlife conversation at the intersections of people and wildlife. I am also interested in preserving waterways and aquatic invasive species research. I am an avid fish keeper and enjoy fishing, camping, and swimming.



HANNAH WHITLOCK

Stanislaus National Forest

B.A. History, California State University Chico

Education is my passion and I aspire to educate the public on the importance of resource and forest management for the benefit of humanity and the environment. I look forward to learning more about how the Forest Service contributes to conservation and finding ways I can personally contribute to the Forest Service’s mission. I enjoy being outdoors, particularly in the water. I also enjoy making art.



SIMONE WISE

Cleveland National Forest

M.S. Parks and Recreation Management, Frostburg State University

I have an immense passion for community empowerment and leading teams that create outdoor experiences for others (particularly youth) that deepen one’s connection to self and our environment as a means of healing. I have a strong belief in the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion and I aspire to be a voice for the underrepresented. I promote self-love through intentional intake and expressive outlets. Currently I most enjoy hiking, roller-skating, traveling, modeling, exercise and cooking/eating in color.



CHAI XIONG

Sierra National Forest

B.S. Finance, California State University Fresno

I have a passion for the outdoors, and I want to secure a permanent position with the Forest Service. I look forward to continuing and developing my skills with this agency. I love plants; seeing them thrive makes me happy. Traveling and hiking are also something that I enjoy doing with friends.



HAILEY YOCHAM

Modoc National Forest

B.S. Animal Sciences, California State Polytechnic University Pomona

I want to go into public service to better public lands for future generations of both people and animals. I want to learn how to serve the community and protect the land we are stewards of. I am very passionate about animal and plant ecology and look forward to learning more about it. I am an avid horse rider and competitor, and own two horses. I am also a former dog trainer and compete in herding trials with my German Shepherd.

Southern Region (R8)



JAMIE ARJONA

Pisgah National Forest

M.A. Anthropology, University of Illinois Champaign—Urbana

I'm interested in historical archaeology and passionate about issues concerning environmental justice, conservation, and historic preservation. I look forward to public outreach related to historic preservation and heritage management initiatives. I'm also excited to work with colleagues, local tribes and diverse stakeholders on collaborative archaeological projects.



ANDREA BAQUERIZO

Daniel Boone National Forest

M.P.S. Environment, Culture, and Media, University of Miami

My career aspiration is to work for a company/agency where it will have a positive impact in our community and our environment. I am passionate about helping and educating the public about ways that we can help our environment and help underserved communities so they can pursue well-educated lives. I love kayaking, paddle boarding, spending hours at the beach, horseback riding - doing anything outdoors always makes me happy. I also enjoy taking pictures of nature and loved ones, Pilates, traveling, and skiing.



NICOLE BODENSTEIN

Ozark—St. Francis National Forest

M.S. Anthropology, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

As an archaeologist, I enjoy doing analysis, particularly of perishables and ceramics. I look forward to expanding my understanding of the cultural resource management process beyond that of a field technician's experience. I enjoy fiber art, video games, yoga, and rock climbing in my free time.



DOUGLAS BROWN

Apalachicola National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science, Tuskegee University

I am looking forward to gaining a wealth of knowledge as a Forestry Technician with the Forest Service. With that knowledge, I hope to secure full-time permanent employment. My hobbies include baseball, fishing, hunting, golf and bowling. My ultimate hobby is enjoying time outdoors exploring nature.



ALLEGRA CODAMON

Southern Region Regional Office, Geographic Information Systems

B.A. Geography, Dartmouth College

My career interests lie at the intersection of human health and environmental health. I believe that one's environment should not negatively affect their well-being or access to opportunities. I see myself working in the government or the nonprofit sector and intend to return to graduate school. I love opportunities for self-teaching and self-exploration, including water coloring, journaling, traveling, reading, and learning new languages and technical skills on the Internet. I also enjoy hiking, gardening, and long walks.



TAYLOR COLLORE

Ocala National Forest

M.A. Anthropology, University of Central Florida

I am eager to work with forest archaeologists to continue their efforts of protecting our forests and the cultural resources within. I intend to work on or develop programs that engage local communities in cultural resource and forest preservation efforts. My long-term goal is to be in a position to enact laws that preserve and protect forests and cultural resources. When I am not working on my thesis I try to keep active by going on daily walks, strength-training, hiking at various local parks, and woodworking in my garage.



GARY DANSBERRY

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

B.S. Agriculture Business and Economics, Virginia State University

I aspire to become an economist for USDA and look forward to learning more about the Forest Service. I enjoy economics and anything related to business.



ALYSSA FANTAUZZO

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

B.A. Biology, Oakland University

My ultimate goal is to become a wildlife biologist and intertwine it with animal rehabilitation. I enjoy exercising (in the gym and outdoors), playing soccer, watching television, reading, and hanging out with friends and family. Many things spark my interest, I truly like to expand on my knowledge and experiences.



VANESSA FERGUSON

National Forests in Florida

B.A. Public Relations, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

I am a creative problem-solver who gets fired up about making a difference in the community through public relations and communications. I love meeting and working with new people and using my passions to create lasting relationships. I enjoy being an advocate for HIV/AIDS awareness, LGBTQ+, animal rights and exploring new vegan recipes. I am not afraid to create change and speak up about important issues, and hope to use my voice to encourage others to do the same.



RENE GABALDON

Ouachita National Forest

M.A. Civil Engineering, California State University Long Beach

My pursuit is for my work to bring value to society and the environment. My passion is to find a balance between nature and industry and create systems that allow both to flourish. I aspire to be a professional Engineer and to work on projects that last decades. My hobbies include surfing, kick boxing, and exercise.



AMY GALLARDO

Chattahoochee—Oconee National Forests

B.S. Forest Resources, University of Georgia

I am pursuing a career in wildlife conservation and public outreach. To become knowledgeable enough to teach the public of wildlife conservation, I hope to become a certified wildlife biologist and work for an establishment with great mentors like the US Forest Services or USFWS. I enjoy swimming, exploring new places, and playing with my pets on my down time. It's always exciting finding new activities I can enjoy with family and friends.



LUIS M. GERALDINO FELICIANO

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

B.A. Geography, Lehman College

I want to conserve and restore resources here in the United States and in the world. I aspire to a world where I and my fellow humans can live in better harmony with ourselves, other species, and the planet in general. I look forward to global justice so all the wounds of the past can heal. I am very into art: string instruments such as guitars, bass, and banjo. I also spend much time sketching, reading and skateboarding.



JESSICA HARDISON

Daniel Boone National Forest

B.A. Media and Journalism and Political Science, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

I am passionate about land conservation efforts and taking care of the natural resources we have in abundance. I aspire to have a career in the Forest Service to ensure our natural resources are properly cared. I look forward to engaging with new community members to help accomplish these conservation efforts. I love horseback riding, and I compete at local and state-level open and AQHA shows with my horse! I also love reading, cycling, and spending time with my loved ones.



BRENDA HOLLINS

Southern Region Regional Office

B.S. Agriculture Business, Langston University

I am looking forward to growing within my work, to increase my responsibilities and skills. My passion is to help others and my aspiration is to become a great leader. Hoping I will achieve these things during my professional journey. My hobbies are reading and listening to all types of music. I am very interested in new technology for example drones.



OLIVIA HOSEA

Southern Region Regional Office, Budget

B.S. Accounting, Hampton University

I aspire to be in a profession where I am able to learn and grow as much as possible. I look forward to being in a place where I can positively impact the lives of others. My favorite hobby is cooking. I also love to travel and spend time with my family.



REBEKAH KERN

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

B.S. Animal Behavior Ecology and Conservation, Canisius College

My goals are to work in the field of cultural resource management. I'm hoping to challenge myself and to diversify my skills and body of knowledge through this program. Ultimately, I would love to pursue a graduate degree and employment with the Forest Service. One of my greatest passions is art; when I'm not at work or on a hike it's a guarantee I'm spending some quality time with my sketchbook. I'm very much looking forward to finding new subjective material to draw in Texas.



CULLEN LAPOINTE

Daniel Boone National Forest

M.S. Geology, University of Georgia

My dream is to have a job that connects me to a place here on Earth a little bit more every day. Whether through learning about the community, scientific studies of the area, or daily care and stewardship, a profession focused on investing in and connecting with a place is my dream. Anything outdoors is fun, especially road biking and canoeing down rivers. I also have a long-standing passion for "ceramicizing". I love turning a hunk of clay into a funky mug that someone will spend time with every morning.



JORDAN LAUGHLIN

Chattahoochee—Oconee National Forests

B.S. Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, Colorado State University

I would like to work for the Forest Service as a wildlife biologist or researcher. I am excited to learn more about how the forest service functions and improve my surveying techniques. I am very passionate about animals and enjoy everything outdoors. I am an avid hiker, camper, backpacker, and skier.



ALEXANDER LAZENBY

Ouachita National Forest

B.Sc. Geology, University of Brighton

My professional aspiration is to become a chartered geologist. I want to use my skills and knowledge to build a better world and promote a more sustainable future. I'm thrilled to be working for the Forest Service and contributing to the preservation of our natural habitats. I love hiking (particularly the West Highland Way in Scotland) and fishing. My other big passion is gravel cycling, and I can't wait for the weather to warm up so I can finally get out again.



ANSLEY LESTER

Francis Marion National Forest

B.A. Sociology and Anthropology, Piedmont College

Understanding our past is essential to guiding our future as a society. I am passionate about discovering more about humanity's past, and preserving those cultural resources for future study. I look forward to working with the Forest Service to accomplish this. I enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking and kayaking. I also enjoy reading and cuddling with my fur babies.



SUJING MAY

Cherokee National Forest

B.L.A. Landscape Architecture, Iowa State University

I am interested in research, community building, and problem-solving for climate change. I am exploring a wide variety of physical and digital mediums to produce visual information and hope to apply these skills in future work. American-born Chinese, I have always floated between two cultural lifestyles. I've picked up many hobbies, but recently dedicated myself to learning Kumdo, or the [Korean] Way of the Sword, and teaching myself Korean. I also study 2D animation and hope to make an animated short.



JUAN MENDOZA

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

B.S. Chemical Engineering and Environmental Studies, Iowa State University

I am highly passionate about the environment. I am always seeking opportunities to improve and protect our water system in underserved communities. I hope to merge my engineering skills and environmental passions to develop solutions on water accessibility. I love being outside hiking, jogging, and gardening. When I am at home, I enjoy cooking and caring for my plants.



DANICA MILINOVIC

Southern Region Regional Office, Engineering

*M.L.A. Landscape Architecture and Environmental and Urban Design
Florida International University*

I aspire to improve quality of life in urban areas. I have developed skills for collaboration with government institutions, which eventually became my passion, and I want to resolve social and ecological issues at both the local and the global levels. I enjoy spending time in nature and with nature. I also enjoy fitness and wellness.



ANTHONY PEDRAZA

Savannah River

B.S. Geology, Texas Tech University

My professional pursuits can be boiled down to few key aspects: upholding, sharing and leading the protection of our natural resources for the future generations of our great country. I look forward to learning from many great minds and contributing to my communities. I am big hiker — I have been mostly a section hiker but I love admiring the geology and ecosystems present all over the country.



MOHAMMED RAJAB

Daniel Boone National Forest

B.S. Civil Engineering, Texas Southern University

I aspire to expand my skills in civil engineering to provide excellent service. I want to become an expert so that I can provide better solutions for complex technical problems and come up with creative solutions. I enjoy soccer, fishing, and technology exploring — structure design and drafting.



BILLIE ROGERS

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

B.A. Anthropology and Geography, Coastal Carolina University

Majoring in anthropology and geography made me realize the vast array of options in these fields. I would be happy in any position related to these two fields, and being happy with what I do is the ultimate goal. I try to spend as much time outside as I can. Whether I'm hiking, walking on the beach, hammocking, reading, or painting, being outside is my favorite place to be.



JENNIFER VAD

Southern Region Regional Office, Engineering

B.S. Civil Engineering, North Dakota State University

I aspire to improve our communities and natural resources. I enjoy being outside in warm weather and spending time with my puppy.



ADAM WANDER

Kisatchie National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science, University of Mary Washington

The health and stability of the environment in future millennia depends on the actions we take now. I believe there is great opportunity in thoughtful management of America's vast public lands. I hope to provide useful service in that area. I enjoy being outdoors and studying nature in all its forms. I am an avid photographer, which allows me to share my appreciation with others.



JAMES WILLIAMS

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

B.A. Environmental Earth Sciences, Dartmouth College

I aspire to encourage others to be passionate and invested in natural spaces. I hope to do this first through using my own passion for nature and land management in order to help protect and remediate natural spaces through various means of natural resource management. My greatest interests are the outdoors and reading. My favorite hobbies consist of making music and gardening.



JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

M.S. Tourism Management, Colorado State University

I aspire to create opportunities for positive outdoor pursuits while also holistically balancing our resources. I want to help create ecologically-minded individuals who understand the importance of managing our natural resources while simultaneously helping set a foundation for science-based resource management. I enjoy anything in the outdoors: running, skiing, fishing, climbing, hiking, wildlife viewing, kayaking, and auto mechanics.

Eastern Region (R9)



ERICKA FOOTE

Wayne National Forest

B.A. Applied Management, Ohio University

I aspire to work for and advance within the US Forest Service. I hope to continue to develop my skills while advancing my career in Human Resource. I am also looking forward to completing my degree. I love traveling, reading murder mysteries novel and spending time with family. I also enjoy watching boxing, pro basketball and college football.



MEGAN LUICK

Eastern Region Regional Office, Air, Water, Lands, Soils & Minerals

M.S. Geographic Information Sciences, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

I enjoy taking separate things and putting them together to make a more complete picture. I've studied geology, geography, and computer science, and also have a passion for the environment. I hope to make a career that uses all my various skills while having a positive impact on the planet. I enjoy fantasy stories, art, music, and pretty much anything that starts with the word "epic." I have also been working my way through various kinds of arts and crafts, most lately drawing and woodworking.



JAMIE NGUYEN

Eastern Region Regional Office, Engineering

B.S. Civil Engineering, Milwaukee School of Engineering

I hope to use this experience to continue learning and gaining experience with industry professionals. Ultimately, I would love to contribute to the environmental field using my knowledge and experience to service communities and nature to the best of my ability. I enjoy cooking, trying new food, exploring new places, playing video games, and taking care of my plants.



ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ

Eastern Region Regional Office

B.S. Civil Engineering, California State University Long Beach

It is a goal to start an entry level position and through hard work advance to a senior position where my success is equal to my passion. There is no substitute for hard work and as beginner I want to learn as much as possible and learn from mistakes. Ultimately I am looking forward to a position that I am passionate about. Off road driving in my Jeep is a recent hobby of mine. It is a great way to see nature and spend time with family outdoors. I am also interested in a wide variety of sport from basketball to combat sports.



RYAN SHELL

Hiawatha National Forest

Ph.D. Vertebrate Paleontology, Wright State University

I really enjoy research and teaching within the natural sciences. At Hiawatha National Forest I am looking forward to mapping a truly unique fossil site. I enjoy comics, video games, and books. I'm also very interested in hiking and camping.



JUSTIN SO

Eastern Region Regional Office, Air, Water, Lands, Soils & Minerals

B.A. Environmental Studies (GIS & Restoration Ecology), University of Washington

I aspire to use spatial analysis through a GIS in order to protect and preserve natural resources, forests, water quality, and land use. I would like to take this internship opportunity to grow as a student and learn more about the available positions that target my professional pursuits. In whichever endeavor I choose, I would like to become a leader that drives positive change and sparks curiosity within those around me. Lately, I enjoy cooking, fishing, reading, gaming, calisthenics training, drawing, and bouldering.

Alaska Region (R10)



ERIC BENEDICT

Tongass National Forest

B.A. Illustration, Rhode Island School of Design

I'm ending an animation career, and trading it for a job in the outdoors. I hope to build and share my love of the outdoors, as well as steadily increase my vitamin D levels. I love backpacking, cycling, and games. I am an aspiring falafel restaurateur and NYT Saturday crossword completer.



SARA DUFT

Tongass National Forest

B.S. Animal Science (Captive Wildlife Management), University of Missouri Columbia

My professional and personal goal is simple: do work that truly matters. I aspire to work for either a non-profit or government agency focusing on conservation and community outreach to ensure the longevity of our public lands. I look forward to the learning and growth opportunities this season. Some favorite pastimes of mine are mountain biking, skiing, hiking, camping, and fly-fishing. I am also (attempting) to learn to play the mandolin.



NICOLE ISRAEL-MEYER

Chugach National Forest

B.A. Global Environmental Change and Sustainability, Johns Hopkins University

I intend to pursue a career in climate change adaptation and conservation; a field that will allow me to combine my interests in the climate change science, community development and conservation education. I would like to work directly with communities to design and implement location-specific approaches that help conserve natural resources and allow them to adapt to environmental stressors exacerbated by climate change. I enjoy climbing, backpacking, caving, biking, snowboarding, and canoeing.



KESIA LEE

Chugach National Forest

B.A. Photojournalism (Spanish), Western Washington University

I teach people how to treat land as sacred and worth protecting. Outdoor education has led me across the western United States to learn from a variety of people and places. I'm excited to continue exploring the diverse and beautiful landscapes of North America. When I'm not traveling, I enjoy tinkering with variety of hobbies. During the pandemic, I added apple tree pruning and mask embroidery to my repertoire.



BLAINE MCCULLARS

Chugach National Forest

B.S. Renewable Natural Resources, Texas A&M University

My goal is to be a leader in the environmental movement leading towards healthier ecosystems and an abundance of sustainable resources. I aspire to have positive and noticeable impacts on the regions I am working on while continuing to grow and learn in my environmental career. I am looking forward to gaining hands on experience with the minerals in Alaska while learning from experts in that area. My hobbies include hiking, mountain biking, skiing, photography, and hanging out with friends.



JESSE PLINE

Tongass National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science/Sustainability and Geography, Western Michigan University

I have a deep love for wilderness and wildlife that I aspire to turn into a lifetime journey of hands-on wilderness protection, habitat restoration, and endangered species recovery. I'm currently working toward becoming a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. One day I'd love to live in Alaska permanently, with a small cabin in the woods and my own wildlife rehab center. When I'm not outdoors, I can often be found in the mythical world, reading and writing fantasy fiction, RPG gaming, and creating a variety of traditional artwork.



GABRIELLE SJOBERG

Tongass National Forest

M.A. Biology, Miami University of Ohio

As a naturalist I learned to observe closely the world around me. Identifying connections has grown into a passion of mine. Whether they are between people and nature or a complex web of an ecosystem; relationships fascinate me. I look forward to sharing space with new communities this summer and learning more about the environment and culture of Southeast Alaska. I enjoy spending time outdoors and adventuring in new spaces where my mind can wander and get curious about all things great and small.

State and Private Forestry (S&PF)



JULIANNA NIKIRK

State & Private Forestry

*B.A. Integrated Visual Art/B.S. Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
Colorado State University*

I hope to help bridge the gap between science and the general public through the use of video and graphic design. I enjoy mostly anything outdoors and love pottery. I like snowboarding, climbing, biking, and running.

Research and Development (R&D)



HANNAH BOHN

Pacific Northwest Research Station

M.S. Microbiology, Colorado State University

I am passionate about conservation and I love learning about the natural world. I look forward to field work and hands on problem solving. I vibe with photography and spending time outside, I have summited a good number of 14ers and I'm looking to put a few more under my belt.



ARACELI MORALES SANTOS

Pacific Northwest Research Station

M.S. Conservation Ecology, University of Michigan

I am passionate about conservation and sound management of wildlife and their habitat. My goal is to one day join a program or department focused on the conservation and protection of endangered and threatened species. I aspire to make a contribution to the work of climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly in the most fragile communities and habitats across the country. I enjoy looking after houseplants, long walks, and quick runs. This year my goal is to improve on my bird watching skills.

Washington Office (WO)



CASSIDY BAZLEY

Washington Office, Dispersed Recreation

M.A. Global Sustainability, University of South Florida

I aspire to a career in public service, either with the Forest Service, National Park Service, or a national security agency. My graduate studies in sustainable tourism cultivated a passion for the outdoors, one that drives my interest in conservation work and promoting healthy and sustainable outdoor recreation. Post-graduate life has thankfully afforded more time for doing the things that I love - hiking, exploring the outdoors, and reading.



MAYA BHADURY

Washington Office, National Partnership Office

*B.A./B.S. Economics, Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning
University of California Davis*

I am passionate about protecting our natural resources through effective policy and management, and believe public service is a powerful vehicle to do that. I hope to have a career in conservation or sustainability, in a role that combines my backgrounds in economics and environmental science. I enjoy traversing the California coast for the best vistas it has to offer. I'm also an avid reader and especially enjoy memoirs.



LEONOR CANTU

Washington Office, Recreation Special Uses

Master of Environmental Management, Yale University

One day I hope to be the superintendent of a park or forest unit. I want to support environmental stewardship and leadership opportunities for under-served communities. I believe this can create healthier and more sustainable public lands and communities. I love rock climbing. My goal is to consistently lead 12.6 sport climbs.



JAZMIN CASTILLO

Washington Office, Trails Program

M.S. Natural Resources, University of Nebraska Lincoln

My goal is to continue growing as a science communicator and conservation advocate. I aim to work in a position where I can continue to support conservation, local communities, and connecting the public to the outdoors. I look forward to learning from the Forest Service and gaining the experience to grow as a scientist. I enjoy weightlifting, soccer, playing with my dog, and spending time outdoors.



JACOB DEAL

Washington Office, Office of Sustainability and Climate

Ph.D. Systems Engineering, University of South Alabama

I'm interested in the technical and trade-off analysis involved in addressing greenhouse gas emissions from energy and mineral development projects and hope to join the agency as an air quality specialist. I'm excited to assist the Forest Service in tackling the climate crisis and also picking a few lichens here and there. I mainly spend my free time trail running or trying new Oreo flavors. If I'm watching television, it's usually The Simpsons.



KARENA HALVORSSEN

Washington Office, Heritage Resources

B.A. International Relations (Latin America), George Washington University

I seek to apply multimedia methods to cultural heritage management, as a method of conservation and also as a way to engage communities that have historically been denied the right to determine the future of their own cultural heritage. I have been interested in empowering frontline communities affected by climate change that have been excluded from dialogues regarding ecological and cultural sustainability. I enjoy farmers markets, cooking a big meal, and riding my bike around Rock Creek Park.



ANDREI PINKUS

Washington Office, Volunteers and Service

B.A. Environmental Studies and Government, Wesleyan University

My main career goals are centered around my ability to create a positive change for people and the environment as the effects of climate change worsen. Lately, I've been very excited about the role of the federal government in making a meaningful impact and how I could best position myself to take part in that. I love outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, trail running, beach volleyball, basketball. One of my favorite activities is SCUBA diving, which I learned while studying abroad in Panama.



BENJAMIN SODERQUIST

Washington Office, Office of Sustainability and Climate

Ph.D. Natural Resources, University of Idaho

I'm interested in improving the ways resource managers use climate science in their everyday decision making. The Forest Service will provide many opportunities to work with both scientists and managers to develop adaptive solutions that address climate change challenges on national forests. I look forward to learning more about land management policies, forest ecology, and new approaches to climate change adaptation. I enjoy hunting, fishing, and exploring the landscapes of the Intermountain West.



NATHAN WALKER

Washington Office, Office of Sustainability and Climate

M.S. Environmental Management (Ecosystem Science & Conservation), Duke University

I want to work in a profession where I can make the world a better place. I want to help the environment, and to create tools and datasets that others can use to do the same. I enjoy doing work that's varied and challenging, and collaborating with others who are also passionate about what they do. I enjoy hiking, roller blading, skiing, ice skating, and playing in the snow, as well as reading, studying languages, baking cookies, and playing board games with friends. I enjoy meeting everyone's pets over Zoom.



MARQUIS THOMAS

Washington Office, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

B.A. Criminal Justice, Fort Valley State University

I am interested in volunteering and community service. I look forward to using my education and growing in the criminal justice field. I enjoy working out and staying healthy. I also like playing sports.

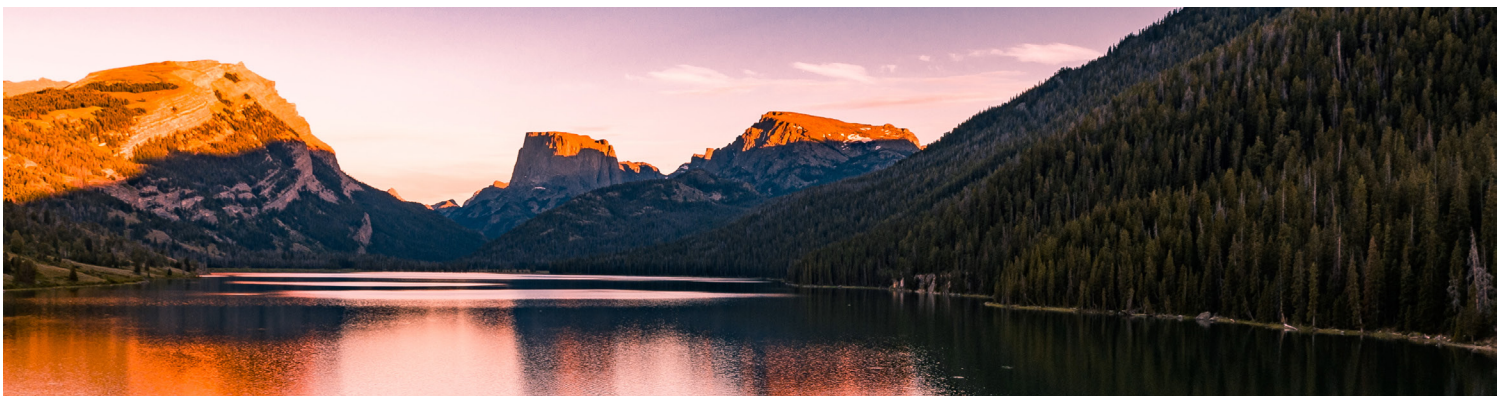


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Email the WO Volunteers and Service staff
(SM.FS.WOVolServ@usda.gov)
to learn more about the Resource Assistants Program and
how you can recruit a resource assistant for your unit.