



United States Department of Agriculture

RESOURCE ASSISTANTS PROGRAM

Fall 2021 Cohort



Forest Service

September 2021





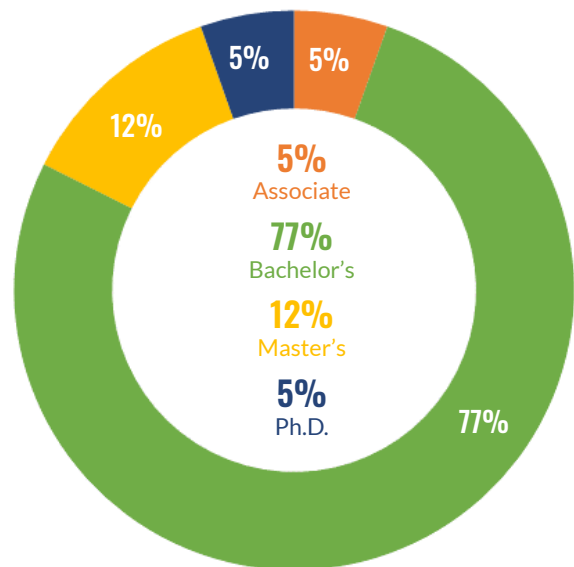
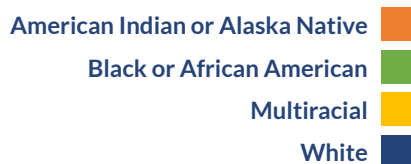
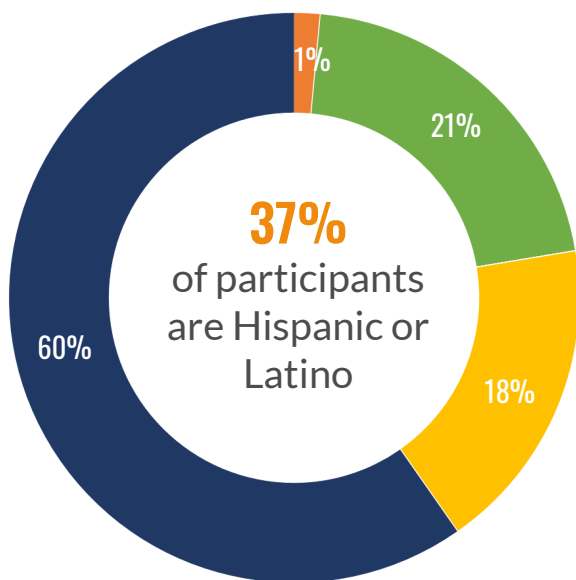
“The Resource Assistants Program is a unique opportunity to shape and influence the next generation of our workforce and exemplifies our core values of service, conservation, diversity, interdependence and safety. Working with partners the program is a resource to develop talented and diverse emerging 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, Associate 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** and have **diverse educational backgrounds**. More than half have degrees relating to biology or natural resource sciences such as anthropology, forestry, hydrology, ecology, geology, and environmental science. Other areas of study include criminal justice, business, accounting, economics, engineering, education, parks and recreation, culinary arts, and more.



23% have, or are working toward a graduate degree

Rocky Mountain Region (R2)



JAMIE CHONG

Rio Grande National Forest

B.S. Resource Conservation (Geology minor), Adams State University

I am seeking a full-time permanent position within the Rio Grande National Forest. I want to have a hand in the stewardship of our lands and pass that on to future generations. I am really looking forward to experiencing and helping the different disciplines within our forest. I enjoy roller derby, hiking, and traveling.



LIAM FRESSIE

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest

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

I would like to receive a degree that would one day allow me to run a lab at a university. I am interested in human-wildlife conflicts and would like to work in wildlife research and data collection. I am ecstatic to get my feet wet in the field of conservation, experience the balance of office/lab work and field work, and work more closely with professionals of my field. I am passionate about the outdoors, rock climbing, hiking, skateboarding, and wildlife tracking and identification.



LEAH HARRIS

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest

B.S. Environmental & Sustainability Studies, Northern Arizona University

I aspire to connect with FS natural resources and inspire stewardship in others. I look forward to learning more about the FS' role in conservation through public outreach and community partnerships. The experience I gain will help me specialize my skills for a future career in conservation through wildlife, recreation, or natural resource management. In my spare time, I enjoy rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, watercolor painting, birdwatching, houseplants, and creating videos of my travels.



CHAZ HOGENAUER

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest

B.S. Civil Engineering, Colorado State University

Professionally, I want to positively impact both the environment and the quality of life of local residents. I hope to get my PE in the next few years. I am looking forward to working in the field and learning about how the forest service manages our resources. I'm excited about integrating more traditional engineering techniques and sustainability. I currently race for a semi-professional road cycling team based out of Fort Collins, CO, and love backcountry skiing, mountain biking and hiking.

Southwestern Region (R3)



KENDRA DERRIG

R3 Office of Communications and Engagement

B.A. English and Computer Science, Trinity University

I hope to find a career where I am constantly growing my skills and making an impact in my community. I'm looking forward to the amount of learning I'm going to do in the next six months. I want to hone my technical skills and learn about the Forest Service and federal land management. I'm also excited to figure out what's next, whether that's a career in IT or something in public affairs. I love being outdoors, reading, and writing fiction. I also picked up crochet over the last year.

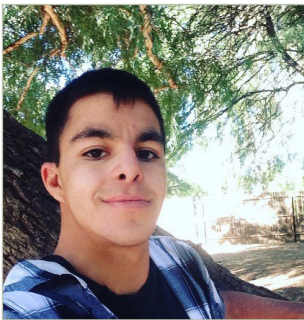


ANNA DOYLE

Tonto National Forest

M.A. Anthropology, University of Nevada

I aspire to obtain a master's degree and PhD in anthropology, continue my work in aiding repatriation efforts, and foster fruitful federal-tribal relations to ensure a respectful approach to cultural resource management. I look forward to gaining more professional experience and combining my knowledge of osteology and cultural resource management to make a difference in the application of archaeology in the Forest Service. I enjoy camping, hiking, kayaking, reading, and baking.



ABEL FIGUEROA

Tonto National Forest

B.S. Urban Planning (Sustainability), Arizona State University

Someday, I aspire to be the urban planner or city manager for a major U.S. city, help create or implement sustainable public policies, and preserve various 'wild' spaces in the state of Arizona. I look forward to connecting with environmental specialists, hydrologists, and forest planners. I'm excited to gain professional experience in an office setting. My absolute favorite pastime is fishing, but my second favorite thing to do is help my dad work on the restoration of his original college car.



RICARDO GARCIA

B.S. Tonto National Forest

Sustainable Plant Systems, University of Arizona

I aspire to find a professional path that involves working with and for the community. In the face of drought, global warming, and climate change I would like to be involved in ecological conservation, resource management, or combating the urban heat island effect. I look forward to working in the field, connecting with the earth, and exploring plant and environmental science. I'm passionate about camping, hiking, biking, gardening, traveling, concerts, and archery.



AUSTIN GEBERS

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

B.S. Outdoor Recreation Education & Ecotourism, Ohio University

Professionally, I wish to pursue a full-time career in the Forest Service. I look forward to getting a permanent position. When it comes to what I like to do with my free time, I enjoy building things and anything fun under the sun.



CHRIS GREUBEL

Cibola National Forest

B.A. Anthropology, Fort Lewis College

I am very interested in history and ecology. I would love to research human impact on ecology and pursue a career in the Forest Service working in archaeology or ecology. I look forward to becoming familiar with my region's forest and the history of the area. I also look forward to the public service aspect of this position and the opportunity to share our knowledge of the forest with the public. I enjoy being outdoors and exploring new places with friends. I also love reading when I have time.



JIMI HAMMOND

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

B.S. Psychology (Parks and Recreation minor), Northern Arizona University

I aspire to secure a full-time position in the recreation department of the Forest Service, helping others to learn, know, and understand the importance of recreation. I am looking forward to getting more time in the field to gain a better understanding of recreation at this level and learning about other opportunities of employment with the USFS. My hobbies are camping, hiking, and hunting. I am also interested in educating the public about our Forest Service lands.



DANIELA HUERTA

Cibola National Forest

PhD Anthropological Archaeology, University of California, Santa Cruz

As a professional archaeologist I aspire to work more closely with Indigenous communities to give them a voice in the management of their ancestral lands, finish my PhD in the coming year or two, and mentor the next generation of BIPOC archaeologists. I look forward to shadowing my supervisor more closely during tribal consultations and learning administrative processes on the forest. My hobbies include film photography and developing my own film, embroidery, and writing short fiction stories.



DANIELA KENNY

Tonto National Forest

B.S. Conservation Biology & Ecology and Sustainability, Arizona State University

My main aspiration is to create solutions for humans, wildlife, and our environment to better co-exist without diminishing each other's right to life. In the future, I plan to obtain a master's degree in wildlife/wilderness Management or wildlife/conservation biology. I am excited to gain hands-on experience collecting, compiling, and analyzing data, and learn more about wilderness and how to monitor its character. In my free time, I like to read, hike, spend time with loved ones, paint, and travel.



RON RICHISON

Coconino National Forest

A.A. Culinary Arts, Western Culinary Institute

Lately, I have been studying metal arc welding and permaculture design. I would like to work in the OHV and trails departments for the USFS. I want to help maintain system trail networks and remove old, social, and/or closed trails to help mitigate erosion issues and help support wildlife migration systems. I'm excited for hands-on learning out in the field, learning new skills, and making network connections in the agency. I enjoy welding, permaculture design, and back country snowboarding.



RUBY SAINZ ARMENDARIZ

Tonto National Forest

M.S. Biology, Arizona State University

I would like to have a field- or lab-based job with the federal government. I want a career where I care about what I am doing and know that my job is important. I am most excited for field work in the Tonto because I love spending time outdoors. I am also looking forward to meeting and getting to work with my new coworkers. I love going camping, paddle boarding and traveling to new places. I also love spending time with my two rescue dogs. I have a chihuahua and a dachshund mix.



MACKENZIE SANCHEZ

R3 State & Private Forestry

B.S. Biology, Northern Arizona University

I aspire to provide environmental education to all students so they can form a personal connection with their local environment. Professionally, I aim to work within the USDA or DOI to impact students' knowledge of and accessibility to nature. I look forward to educating myself in international environmental programs and use this knowledge to bridge the gap between our communities and the environment. I love cooking for my family, birding, camping, and watching movies.



KATRINA THEISEN

Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands

B.S. Wildlife Biology (Terrestrial), University of Montana

I would like to have a career in wildlife biology, preferably working directly with wildlife and their environments/habitats. During this job, I am looking forward to meeting new people, seeing new places, and learning what the Forest Service is all about. I am interested practical application of science on a landscape and excited to work with wildlife via surveys and banding. I love hiking, birding, and crafting both with textiles and other visual art such as drawing/painting.



MIRANDA TURNER

Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands

M.A. Ecology, Stony Brook University

I am an aspiring wildlife biologist with an interest in conservation, habitat management, and research. I hope to assist in protecting important species on public lands. I'm looking forward to learning about the Kiowa and Rita Blanca grassland ecosystems and assisting with protection of sensitive species and habitats. I'm also looking forward to learning from wildlife experts in the area so I can grow my knowledge base and abilities. I enjoy hiking, backpacking, camping, reading, and crafting.



JESSICA WEED

R3 Water Rights

B.S. Environmental Science/Geography/GIS (Sustainability), University of New Mexico

I would like to pursue a career supports my values and exercises my mind daily. I hope to go back to school to become an expert in a field which will allow me to dedicate my career to help the environment and everything it encompasses. I look forward to learning about southwest water rights and the policies to manage them, working with a diverse group of individuals, and seeing firsthand what career opportunities are available within this scope of work. I love being outdoors especially hiking and playing sand volleyball.



MAKENNA WELLS

Tonto National Forest

B.S. Natural Resource Ecology (Wildlife), Arizona State University

I eventually want to become a district biologist with the Forest Service. I plan to continue to pursue a career in wildlife, working with endangered species in the state of Arizona. I'm looking forward to becoming certified to survey new species on the Tonto National Forest and attending wildlife conferences and joint meetings. I'm an avid hunter in Arizona and I spend most of my off time scouting, hiking and preparing for upcoming hunts. I also enjoy hiking and backpacking new areas.



TYLER WILLIS

R3 Lands (Special Uses)

B.S. Environment & Natural Resources, Ohio State University

Over time I'd like to become an experienced environmental professional and sustainability expert. I want to use my expertise in a way that directly addresses the climate crisis and benefits current and future generations. I'm excited to deepen my connection with nature, dedicate my energy to public service, and gain real-world experience with a federal agency in a field I'm truly passionate about. I love to hike (especially in the desert) and experience new places across the world with friends.

Pacific Southwest Region (R5)



CORY BUSBY

Modoc National Forest

B.S. Geospatial Technologies, Northern Arizona University

I aspire to protect the health and diversity of the world's ecosystems. I want to push people to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. I look forward to making the outdoors more enjoyable for all. I am excited for the opportunity to explore new areas and learn valuable skills that will protect our nation's forests. I enjoy listening to music, camping, and baking.



KELSO CARAPIA

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

PhD Education: Equity, Diversity & Language Education, University of Nevada

I aim to teach outdoor adventure education/wilderness studies with a social justice focus in higher education, conduct further research in the field, and establish a non-profit organization. I am passionate about teaching leadership skills to underserved and under-represented local youth through outdoor, adventure-based excursions. I love geeking out about Star Wars, mountain biking, climbing, wake surfing, backcountry snowboarding, slaying karaoke, and enjoying my collection of VHS and vinyl.



KATYA HERNANDEZ-POL

Cleveland National Forest

B.S. Honours Plant Biology, University of British Columbia

I would like to be a natural resource manager or botanist with the FS and may return to school for a PhD. When I retire, I plan to have a sustainable ostrich farm and orchard in the Northwestern US. I look forward to learning from forest biologists, networking with people who share my interests and passions. Finally, I am ready to learn about the endemic ecosystem of Southern California which I have not yet explored. I enjoy hiking, reading, sewing, and have become a pretty good cook.



ASHLEY LOGAN

Modoc National Forest

B.S. Agriculture, Virginia State University

I aim to be part of a team that helps sustain nature for upcoming generations, as an FS employee, and join non-profits working towards the same goal. I am looking forward to being outside, knowing that I am paid to protect the beautiful scenery. I want to provide all living things a healthy environment to thrive in. I have a fascination with aquatic life, specifically with sharks, and love collecting seashells at the beach. My favorite thing to do at home is draw while I binge on movies.



KAITLIN MORGADO

Modoc National Forest

PhD Animal Science, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

I hope to go to vet school starting the fall of 2022 to earn my DVM. I would like to build a career practicing large animal medicine while also learning land and animal management. I am excited about learning how to handle and work with wild horses, maintaining the facility they are kept in, and living and being in Alturas, which is new to me. In my free time I enjoy reading, but I tend to buy books faster than I can read them. I also enjoy running and practicing guitar any chance I can get.



RAYMOND QUIROZ

San Bernardino National Forest

A.A. Environmental Science, San Bernardino Valley College

I aspire to join the US Forest Service or another land agency to serve the public in any way I can. I look forward to interacting and learning with USFS employees, and the work experience in general. I am excited to learn about my host forest and contribute to the local communities. I love hiking, song writing, and being around family and friends.



ERIC RIOS-BRETADO

Sequoia National Forest

B.S. Wildlife Conservation & Science, Texas A&M University

I aspire to eventually work in a leadership position within the Forest Service; I have my eyes set on the recreation program. I look forward to learning about how the agency manages wild and scenic rivers. I am excited to travel, educate the public about the Kern River, and work alongside professionals in this field to see what they do firsthand. I love to read about local history and fantasy fiction. I enjoy hiking into wilderness areas and connecting to nature. I'm also an amateur birder.



NOÉ ROMO LOERA

Inyo National Forest

B.A. Environmental Studies, Conservation Science and Policy (Sustainability Studies), University of California, Santa Cruz

I am interested in the way we interact with nature, be it for food or recreation. I hope to gain insight into these interactions and understand how to move forward and continue using natural resources with minimal trace. I am looking forward to exploring the Inyo National Forest and learning any new skills and knowledge from other Forest Service employees. I enjoy painting and exploring new food, both in my kitchen and restaurant.



KRISTIAN SCHENK

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

B.S. Business Marketing & Finance, University of Hawaii

I aspire to work in environmental conservation and natural resource management to preserve our home on Earth for future generations. I am excited to explore the outdoors, study nature, and learn new things everyday while working towards my goal of making a difference in this world. I am an avid hiker and spend most of my free time outdoors. I enjoy snowboarding, camping, backpacking, traveling, yoga, cooking, gardening, learning, and spending time with my family and friends.



JAKE SMITH

Eldorado National Forest

B.S. Resource Management, Quest University Canada

My professional goals are to connect the whole spectrum of the public to our public lands. As use and enjoyment of public lands increases, I hope to educate users about how to minimize their impact. At Eldorado National Forest, I'm looking forward to working with special use permit holders, conducting enforcement on a snowmobile, and learning about the frequent user groups. My hobbies include trail running with my two dogs, listening to podcasts, and reading and hanging out with loved ones.

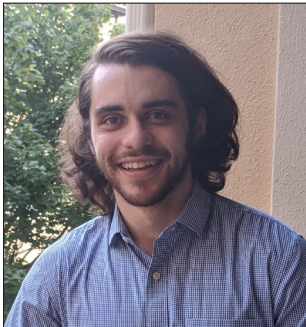


MACY SUCHAN

Eldorado National Forest

M.S. Recreation, Parks & Tourism Administration, California State University, Sacramento

My goal is to kick-start a career with the Forest Service as a recreation/resource officer. I am looking forward to learning about grants and agreements. I enjoy kayaking, hiking, and swimming.



ZHEER SAEED

R5 Human Resources

B.B.A. Marketing, Georgia State University

My long-term goal is to work in positions that will have a positive impact on the environment. I haven't set a rigid path toward achieving that, as there are many careers in conservation and sustainability that I would enjoy. My favorite hobbies are hiking, kayaking, and fishing. I hope to hike the Appalachian Trail in its entirety next year. My hobbies led to an interest in land management and conservation, so working with the Forest Service is a great opportunity.

Pacific Northwest Region (R6)

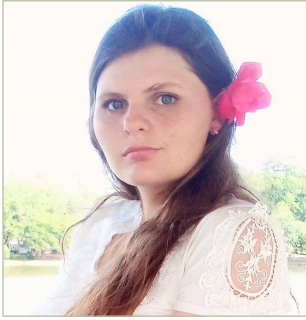


LILY CAREY

R6 Communications (Digital Media)

B.S. Biology (Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology), Western Washington University

I aspire to continue to work in the outdoors, use my creativity to help people connect with nature, and inspire conservation. I look forward to learning new skills with video production and graphic design, using new software to further those skills and to visit National Forests throughout the region to help them create digital media. I love anything related to nature, hiking, birdwatching, backpacking. I love gardening, embroidery and traveling.



LAURA FIELDER

Osceola National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science & Geography (Writing), University of Maryland, Baltimore Co.

My professional aspiration is to get a full-time federal job on public lands, where I can further learn about and improve the environment. I hope to create local education programs that promote educational opportunities for those of all ages. I am looking forward to trying different positions at the Ocala National Forest, furthering my own education, and exploring federal service. I enjoy taking walks outside, reading, writing stories, writing essays analyzing books and movies, and drawing.



NARMARI CRUZ HERNANDEZ

El Yunque National Forest

B.A. Business Administration (Accounting), University of Puerto Rico

My professional aspiration is to graduate this December with Honors, start studying for the CPA exam, and eventually become a personal/business finance coach. I want to learn more about the world of budgeting and how to better analyze financial information, be able to conduct/give a meeting where I explain the budget and finance information of any account, and ultimately grow as a professional. I love reading about new ways to save money and working in my university's student organizations.



JULIAN JOHNSON

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

B.S. Civil Engineering, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

My short-term pursuit is to gain experience in civil engineering to discover what I have a passion for. My long-term goal is to be in a career that brings me joy and allows me to give back to the community. A bonus would be the ability to travel the world. I look forward to living in Atlanta, making new friends and memories, and figuring out how to succeed in life. My go-to hobby is being physically active through basketball and running, and I love learning new things.



BEKAH MILLER

R8 Planning Staff (NEPA)

B.S. Biology and Environmental & Sustainability Studies, Indiana University

I am passionate about finding unique ways to foster relationships between the environment and those historically denied the opportunity to interact with nature. Throughout my career, I hope to continue creating spaces for disenfranchised voices to fight against environmental inequities. I'm excited to learn about the implementation of environmental regulations at a federal level, work with FS officials, and relocate from Indiana to Atlanta, GA. I enjoy hiking, going to brunch, and knitting.



ABBY MOORE-LEE

R8 Planning Staff (NEPA)

B.S. Biology & Natural Resource Management, University of Central Oklahoma

I aspire to work in a profession that will allow me to enhance my understanding of the relationship between humans and nature in order to spread awareness, contribute to developing solutions to current environmental dilemmas, and prevent future ones. I look forward to learning new skills and growing in the environmental field. In my free time I enjoy beekeeping, art museums, and traveling.



CAMERON MORROW

Apalachicola National Forest

A.S. Civil Engineering, Rose State College

I aim to gain significant work experience to pursue a career in engineering. I plan to work with the Forest Service in many positions for as long as I can; even when I am old and cannot be outside, I will still work in conservation. I look forward to learning about the ecology of the area, exploring the methods for how we can best conserve it, and tying in my passion for the outdoors with engineering work. I enjoy backpacking, hiking, camping, skiing, mountain biking, and photography.



BRENDA PEÑA-LÓPEZ

El Yunque National Forest

B.A. Communications (Information & Journalism), University of Puerto Rico

I aspire to tell stories that provoke an emotional reaction, work in an organization that aligns with my ethical values and contribute my skills towards building a better country. I want to learn more about conservation issues in Puerto Rico, engage the community, promote sustainable development, and encourage people to fall in love with and advocate for nature. I love traveling to new places, exploring Puerto Rican beaches, reading, watching documentaries, cooking, baking, and wine tasting.



JENNIFER RUBIO

R8 Planning Staff (NEPA)

B.S. Biology, Georgia State University

With a strong passion for public health, I hope to pursue a career in health and environmental policy work and ultimately attend a dual degree MPH/MD program. I also hope to establish a mentoring program to help first-generation college students through their journey in higher education. I'm excited to meet and learn from people all over the US and dive into policy work as part of my everyday work assignments. I am obsessed with crime docuseries and can watch them all day, every day.



DANIEL SMITH

R8 Budget & Finance

B.S. Accounting, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

I aspire to develop professional skills, learn different techniques, and eventually transition into a leadership role. In this position, I look forward to meeting my future peers, learning new skills, and working on future projects. I enjoy biking, sports, and spending time outdoors.



JAMES WILLIAMS

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas

B.A. Environmental Earth Studies, Dartmouth College

My professional aspirations are to help encourage more people to care for their natural lands. I hope to learn as much as I can about the agency, land use policies and regulations, and the processes employed by the Forest Service. I also look forward to being of service to the agency, being able to provide whatever help I can, and gaining an experience from this internship that I can look back on for years to come. My main interests are reading, learning, playing guitar, and biking.

Eastern Region (R9)



NAT ROMERO

R9 Planning, Appeals, Litigation, and Landscape Scale Restoration

B.S. Parks & Natural Resources Management, California State University

I have an interest in making a career with the Forest Service and faith that society will continue to disconnect from their everyday life and engage with their ecosystem. I want to learn hands on skills in conservation, land management, and restoration. I am most looking forward to learning and collaborating with my mentor. Ready for that East Coast experience! I enjoy snowboarding, trail running, slacklining and spending some quality time with myself.

Alaska Region (R10)



SAM LOBDELL

Tongass National Forest

B.S. Biology & Outdoor Recreation, Central Michigan University

I have always had a love for the outdoors and helping people connect with and enjoy nature. I have been pursuing a career in natural resource and public lands management to enhance the public's experiences, which I think is more important now than it ever has been. I am looking forward to learning the policies, processes, and ins and outs of special uses management. I really enjoy hiking and photography in my spare time. I have also been slowly teaching myself watercolor painting.



RAGEN MCNAIR

Tongass National Forest

M.A. Criminal Justice (Psychology), Western Governor's University

My goal is to gain knowledge from this internship to develop a more effective and meaningful training program for future RAs. My long-term goal is to obtain a full-time position in education for Job Corps. I look forward to field work in beautiful Alaska, new learning opportunities, and expanding upon my current skills! The extrovert in me enjoys exploring new places, hiking, and meeting new people, while the introvert in me loves sitting at home with my cats, doing puzzles, and knitting.

Washington Office (WO)



ZOE BARR

WO Sustainable Forest Management

B.S. Environmental & Sustainability Science/B.S. International Agriculture & Rural Development, Cornell University

I aspire to attain a masters and PhD focused on agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, and their respective ecosystem services. I hope to have a career where I can work in the office and in the field, domestically and abroad. I am excited to move to Washington, DC, meet and work with people with diverse interests, and to promote a sustainable future. I enjoy gardening, backpacking, camping, kayaking, rock climbing, reading books, and art.



COREY BATTS

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Shawnee National Forest

B.S. Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University

I strive to facilitate a great team in my work with the federal government. I aspire to help and be the best law enforcement officer I can be. I look forward to meeting people and making great connections in this field of law enforcement. I want to expand my knowledge of the Forest Service and learn new things to help me prepare for the start of my career. One of my favorite hobbies is going to the gym 5-6 times a week. Along with going on walks with my dog and taking him to the dog park.



MAYA BHADURY

WO Recreation

B.S. Economics & Environmental Policy, University of California, Davis

I am passionate about protecting our natural resources through effective policy and management. I hope to have a career in conservation or sustainability, in a role that combines my background in economics and environmental science. I'm excited to delve into forest management and policy at a high level and meet all the amazing people who support the Forest Service. I enjoy traversing the California coast for the best vistas it has to offer. I'm also an avid reader and especially enjoy memoirs.



NIJEE BROWN

WO Lands

B.S. Information Technology, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University

I look forward to going back to school for my master's degree, which will allow me to make positive changes in the community. I look forward to the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself and part of a team that is about making an impact. I know I will learn many new things from this experience! I am an avid reader as well and enjoy participating in research projects. I love photography, art, games, travel, and making memories with friends.



JOSH BUNDY

National Agroforestry Center

B.A. Graphic Design, Doane University

I want to utilize my skills and passions within the fields of Graphic Design and photography to benefit people both within the US and abroad. I aspire to further my skills within these fields to better both myself and those I work with. I'm looking forward to meeting new people who share the same ideas and goals as me, while working within a field I am passionate about. I enjoy designing soccer jerseys and taking photographs of nature and wildlife in my free time.



COURTNEE GARCIA JR.

WO Recreation

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, University of Houston

I am working on using my engineering degree to get a job to make an impact. I have always been interested in the aerospace industry. I look forward to learning as much as I can about forestry. I am excited to build connections and develop my skills every day. I am interested in playing basketball, watching sports, playing video games, and spending time with family.



VAL GONZALES

WO Recreation Fee Program

B.S. Biology (Sustainability), Portland State University

I aspire to continue gaining experience in communications and using those skills to help make scientific information and related programs accessible to all. I am looking forward to learning more about recreation and the program of work behind it, as well as working on communications material for the program. I love to go hiking, be in the kitchen, and although I haven't had the chance lately, I love to surf.



LONNIE JOHNSON

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Wasatch-Cache National Forest

M.S. Criminal Justice/Global Security & International Affairs, Florida A&M University

Professionally, I aspire to learn everything that will allow me to be the best federal officer possible. I eventually want to be the chief of the agency or work in a challenging administrative position that will allow me to help the agency to continue to grow. I look forward to being outdoors and gaining professional connections within and outside of the agency. I have interest in working out, relaxing in the water, and reading national and international political news.



ALYIA MAULDEN

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Daniel Boone National Forest

B.A./B.S Homeland Security & Political Science, Eastern Kentucky University

I have always dreamed of going into federal law enforcement. I hope to get hired on full time and work on these goals. I look forward to working with new people and getting to experience new things. I love to learn and help people so I'm excited for this experience. I love to read and be outside, and also enjoy painting and being with people.



JOSEPHINE MARESCA

WO Watershed Program

B.S. Fish & Wildlife Management, American Public University

I aspire to find ways to conserve our natural resources and wildlife, managing land wisely, and educate people on important issues. At this time, I look forward to working for the Forest Service and being a Resource Assistant. I can't wait to use my skills for the benefit of environmental conservation and education. I also look forward to making connections and friends along the way! I enjoy spending time with my family, birdwatching, hiking, and playing the harp.



TAQUILA MONROE

WO Recreation.gov (One Stop)

M.B.A. Educational Leadership/Organizational Psychology, Aspen University

Eventually, I aspire to become an attorney and advocate for those that are less fortunate. Presently, I am working towards improving the education of the nation's children and families. I look forward to learning more about the Forest Service, networking, and collaborating with a diverse group of individuals. I enjoy meditation, research, and learning. I also enjoy Zumba and spending time with family.



KEN MONTGOMERY

WO Lands

B.S. Government Policy, Howard University

I aspire to have achieve specific, measurable, and realistic goals in a timely manner. I am excited to be a part of and foster a collaborative, team-focused culture. I seek opportunities to learn and grow my skills from a technical standpoint and am excited to learn from my peers within USDA. I love sports and practicing my faith.



NATE MUNIZ

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Boise National Forest

B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies (Environmental Sustainability), Fairleigh Dickinson University

My professional aspiration is to be a law enforcement officer for the Forest Service and to have the ability to protect those who work and recreate on our public lands along with our natural resources. I am looking forward to learning from a great law enforcement officer and having the ability to understand what it takes to be successful in this career. My interests include backpacking, hiking, and nature photography.



ANTHONY PICO

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Sierra National Forest

B.A. Criminology, Law and Society, University of California, Irvine

Overall, I aim to work towards a greater cause, facilitate daily tasks that benefit society, help others in need, serve my community, and make a difference. This internship will give me the opportunity to pursue my passion in the criminology field, learn about the law enforcement occupation, and ultimately pursue a long and prosperous career in the law enforcement field. I love watching sports (like football, baseball, basketball), hanging out with friends and family, camping, and fishing.



NICK PONTEJOS

WO Budget and Finance

B.S. Actuarial Mathematics (Economics & Business Admin), Colorado State University

Professionally, I want to see myself in a role that makes full utilization of my degree and talents. Right now, I am just trying to learn as much as I can to grow professionally and individually! I look forward to experiencing life in D.C. and seeing how our government functions firsthand. I also look forward to proving myself in my role and doing the best that I am able. While I used to be into playing music and sports, my hobbies currently consist of lifting weights and playing video games.



KAYLEE REED

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Tahoe National Forest

B.S. Criminal Justice (Environmental Studies minor), California State University, Chico

I aspire to help the environment and people around me through a career that is outside, changes day by day, and challenges me, like being a park ranger. As an RA, I look forward to making connections with everyone within the FS, seeing the day-to-day life of a LEO, and being the “right hand man” to help in any situation. I am overly grateful to have the opportunity in general to work outside and be with the US Forest Service! I enjoy mountain biking, road cycling, and running on a daily basis.



ARIEL RODRIGUEZ

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Lolo National Forest

PhD Business Management (Economics/Environmental Policy minor), Fort Lewis College

I aspire to earn a respectable reputation in Law Enforcement and continue to grow and open up unlimited opportunities within the job. I look forward to traveling and meeting new people, building relationships within the government agencies, and gaining knowledge and appreciation for the physical and demanding work ethic. Every day presents an opportunity for self-growth and to improve oneself. I am interested in traveling and learning as much as possible.



ANNA SIEGFRIED

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Tonto National Forest

M.S. Wildlife & Fisheries Biology, Clemson University

My goals are to explore the law enforcement aspect of wildlife conservation and to earn certifications for wildland fire and wilderness first responder. I'm excited to learn about the work of a natural resources law enforcement career, travel for various details, and gain skills related to wildland fire and search and rescue missions. Since I was a young child, I have been an enthusiastic birder. I recently developed an interest in fictional writing - I am currently working on my first novel.



KYNADI TIPLER

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Ocala National Forest

B.S. Criminal Justice, Campbell University

After serving one job for a while, I would eventually like to join the FBI. I've always wanted to be in law enforcement since I was a kid. I look forward to learning about the job and creating new friendships. I also can't wait to learn the layout of the land. I played softball since I was a kid through college and I love music! I work out almost every day.



PRESTON THOMAS

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Shawnee National Forest

A.A. Criminal Justice, Holmes Community College

I am highly motivated to advance my career in federal law enforcement and make a difference in the field. I'm excited to learn about the agency, receive training in the field that can benefit myself and the, meet new people, and travel the world while living out the mission of the organization. I enjoy traveling and stimulating my mind with the many things the world has to offer. I love being involved in the community and volunteering with youth groups, summer camps, and youth sport teams.



DARI WORTHAM

WO Law Enforcement, assigned to Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

B.S. Criminal Justice, Hampton University

I aspire to become an asset to the Forest Service, develop new skill sets that allow me to become a valuable part of the team, and make a positive, lasting impact. I'm looking forward to meeting and making connections with new people through this program and learning more about what the Forest Service does. I love to read because there is nothing like opening up a book and being immersed in a whole new world.

Research and Development (R&D)

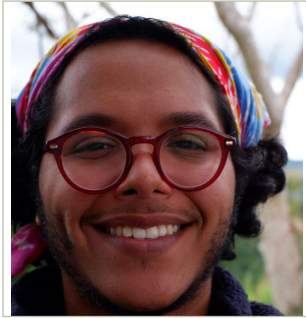


LORENA CORTÉS TORRES

International Institute of Tropical Forestry

M.S. Conservation Ecology, University of Michigan

I hope to work for a land or marine management agency that aims to conserve endangered environments and wildlife, and eventually become a professional ecologist. I am interested in wildlife and endangered species and habitat conservation with a focus on forest and marine ecosystems. I am very much looking forward to outdoor field work and brushing up on my ArcGIS mapping skills. In my free time, I enjoy watching movies, eating ice-cream, exploring new places, hiking, kayaking and scuba diving.



ANDRES GONZALES

International Institute of Tropical Forestry

B.S. Biology, Interamerican University of Puerto Rico

I wish to grow professionally in the Resource Conservation field, provide valuable help to better our environment, and work with the amazing people from the IITF and private forest owners from my country. I look forward to helping the local government in the conservation and mitigation of forested urban areas. I love hiking and outdoor recreation, but when I'm not outside I like to cook for my family.



ALICIA WILSON

Rocky Mountain Research Station

B.S. Environmental Science, Tuskegee University

I aspire to pursue a career in the field of environmental science, specifically in Environmental Health. I would also like to work in conservation and help to protect the environment. I look forward to meeting new people, learning new things, and gaining more experience in the field of environmental science. I enjoy being outdoors and exploring. My hobbies include dog sitting/walking in my free time.



ALEXANDER LORENZO RAMOS

International Institute of Tropical Forestry

B.A. Psychology, University of Puerto-Rico

I aim to complete my master's degrees in Information Science and Educational Counseling. In the long term I would like to work as a professional librarian, implementing efficient organization strategies. I look forward to developing new skills, working with people from different backgrounds, and using my knowledge to solve problems and complete tasks. I enjoy relaxing by playing video games, reading, and going on walks with my dog. I also do amateur photography of urban environments.

Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (JCCCC)



JSARIA COLEMAN

Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps Center

B.S. Agricultural Business, Tuskegee University

Professionally, I aspire to develop and own a hybrid aquaponics/hydroponics farm, eventually expanding my business to minority communities across the state and the world. I look forward to providing knowledge and wisdom to those who are unaware of how to produce fruits and vegetables for personal health, which can create a generation of wealth for those less fortunate and counteract global threats such as scarcity and poverty. My personal hobbies are gardening and making music.



DESTINI SEWELL

Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps Center

B.A. Psychology (Criminal Justice), University of Alabama

I want to pursue my career in the mental health field and further my education by achieving a master's in clinical mental health. I aspire to grow both as a person and in my career by building my leadership skills and strengthening my communication skills. I look forward to meeting new people, building connections, maintaining these friendships, and acquiring new skills from this position. My hobbies include singing, dancing, and traveling. I also like to spend time in my garden.



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.