Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation
Job Announcement
This is not a state position

Job Title: Research Associate

Wage: $30/hour – full time (40 hrs/week)

Duration: One year minimum, with potential for extension based on funding availability

Project Name: Redwoods Rising Stream Health Assessment

Supervisor: Alison O'Dowd

Essential functions of the job:
Cal Poly Humboldt is seeking a motivated and skilled Research Associate to support collaborative research with Redwoods National and State Parks as part of the Redwoods Rising initiative. This position will focus on assessing stream health using a combination of terrestrial LiDAR, eDNA sampling, remote sensing, and field-based measurements in remote and rugged environments.

The Research Associate will play a key role in evaluating the effects of ongoing forest and watershed restoration treatments and will contribute to adaptive management strategies by providing timely, science-based insights to land managers. The position will also assist in developing and refining field and analytical protocols that can be adopted by land management agencies for long-term monitoring and restoration planning.

The successful candidate will contribute to data collection, analysis, and reporting to meet grant deliverables and support scientific publications. This is an exciting opportunity to work at the intersection of cutting-edge technology and ecological restoration of previously degraded watersheds.

About Redwoods Rising:
Redwoods Rising is a collaborative, landscape-scale forest restoration initiative led by Save the Redwoods League, California State Parks, and the National Park Service. The project aims to restore more than 70,000 acres of previously logged forests in Redwood National and State Parks, which are home to nearly half of the world's remaining protected old-growth redwoods.

These forests, though ecologically rich, have been heavily impacted by industrial logging, leaving behind degraded streams, dense second-growth stands, and failing infrastructure. Redwoods Rising seeks to heal these damaged ecosystems, reconnect fragmented old-growth groves, and restore the natural processes that support biodiversity, carbon storage, and climate resilience. The project also engages local communities and Tribes in shaping a vibrant future for these iconic landscapes.
Learn more at: https://www.savetheredwoods.org/project/redwoods-rising

Research Associate Key Responsibilities:

- Conduct fieldwork in remote, off-trail locations under physically demanding conditions.
- Collect, manage, and process data using terrestrial LiDAR, eDNA techniques, and traditional field measurements.
- Utilize remote sensing tools and GIS (ArcGIS/ESRI) to support spatial analysis.
- Perform statistical analysis using program R and other relevant software.
- Prepare technical reports, contribute to grant deliverables, and assist in manuscript preparation for peer-reviewed publications.
- Collaborate closely with staff from Redwoods National and State Parks and other project partners.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Hydrology, Ecology, Environmental Science, Geospatial Science, Natural Resources Management, or a related field.
- Demonstrated experience conducting fieldwork in remote or rugged environments.
- Proficiency with R for statistical analysis.
- Experience using ArcGIS and other ESRI GIS products.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Master's degree or greater in Hydrology, Ecology, Environmental Science, Geospatial Science, Natural Resources Management or a closely related field.
- Experience with terrestrial LiDAR and/or eDNA sampling techniques.
- Familiarity with stream ecology and watershed assessment methods.

Application Instructions

To apply submit: 1) a letter of interest, 2) resume, and 3) contact information for 3 professional references along with the ** SPF Self-Identification Form for Job Applicants to Dr. Alison O'Dowd (alison.odowd@humboldt.edu).

If you have any questions regarding this position (call/email) Chad Anderson (National Parks Service) at Chad_Anderson@nps.gov or Alison O'Dowd (Cal Poly Humboldt) at alison.odowd@humboldt.edu or (707) 826-3438.

Application deadline for initial review: November 16, 2025.
Applications will be accepted after this date on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation (SPF) is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex including sexual orientation and gender identity, national origin, disability, protected Veteran Status, or any other legally protected status. More information about Cal Poly Humboldt SPF's Equal Employment Opportunity hiring can be found here.

SPF adheres to the policy of employment at will, which permits the employer or the employee to end the employment relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause or notice as permissible by law. No SPF representative other than the Executive Director may modify at-will status and/or provide any special arrangement concerning terms or conditions of employment in an individual case or generally and any such modification must be in a signed writing.

Maintaining eligibility to work in the United States is a condition of employment. Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation does not sponsor visas for staff, management, or temporary positions.

For assistance with the application process, please submit an Accommodation Request Form, which can be found here or contact ADA Coordinator at 707.826.3626 or confidential fax at 707.826.3625. For more information regarding accommodation, you may also visit the Cal Poly Humboldt Human Resources website at https://disability.humboldt.edu/. Individuals in need of a telecommunications relay service may contact the California Relay Service at 877.735.2929 TTY.

A background check (including a criminal records check) must be completed satisfactorily before any candidate can be offered this position within Cal Poly Humboldt SPF. Failure to satisfactorily complete the background check may affect the application status of applicants or continued employment of current Humboldt SPF employees who apply for this position.