



United States Department of Agriculture

RESOURCE ASSISTANTS PROGRAM

Fall 2020 Cohort



Forest Service

September 2020



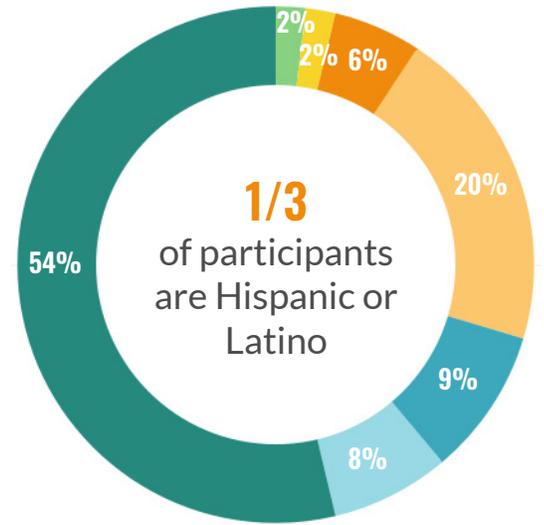
“Resource Assistants Program host mentors have a unique opportunity to shape and influence the next generation of our workforce. Their willingness to give of their time to provide guidance will help resource assistants develop their skills, learn how to lead and acquire a deep understanding about our mission. Mentors are key to resource assistants’ success...ensuring our core agency values are the foundation of an experience that will get real work done and contribute to a more diverse future workforce.”

*Tina Terrell
Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System*

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

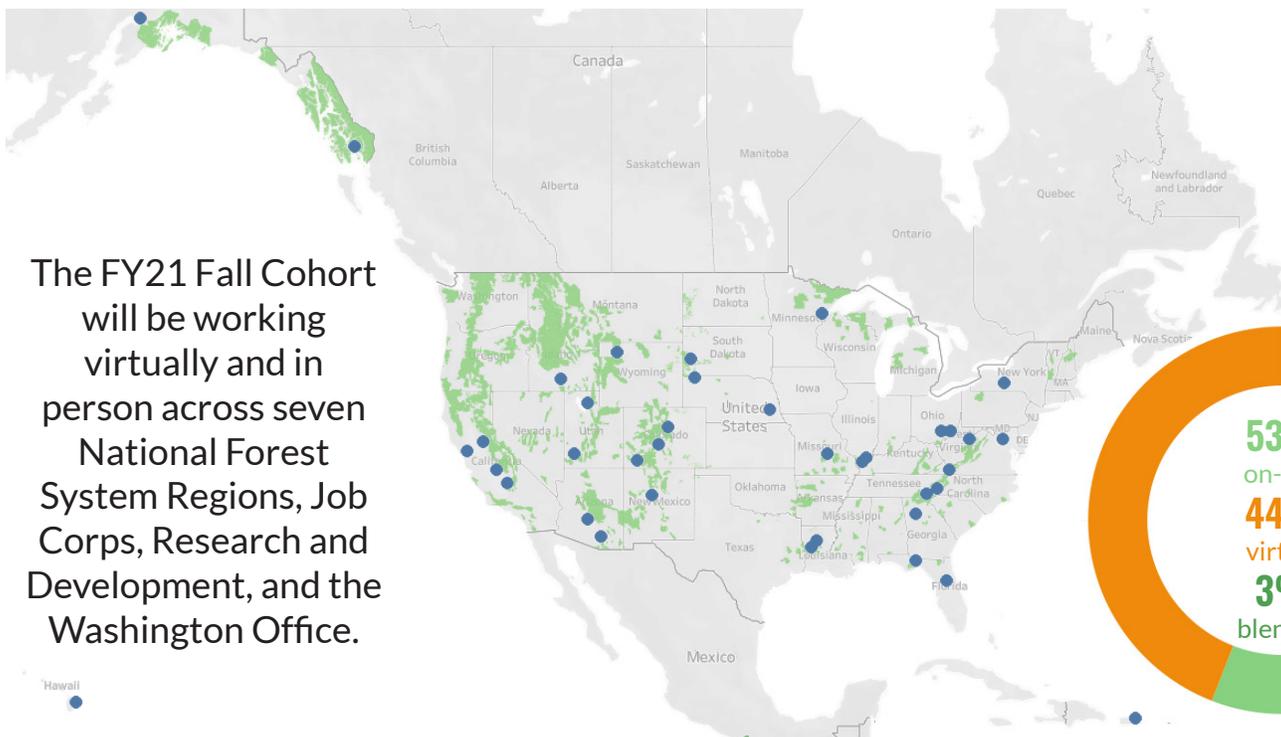
Its primary goal is to **attract and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce for the Agency.**

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

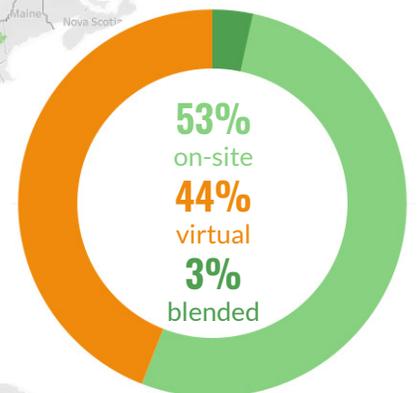


1/3
of participants
are Hispanic or
Latino

- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- No Answer
- Asian
- White
- Black or African American



The FY21 Fall Cohort will be working virtually and in person across seven National Forest System Regions, Job Corps, Research and Development, and the Washington Office.



“The Resource Assistants Program is a treasured Forest Service program. It contributes to our goal to excel as a high performing agency by serving as a vehicle to recruit, place and retain talented and diverse emerging professionals—our next generation of natural resources leaders.”



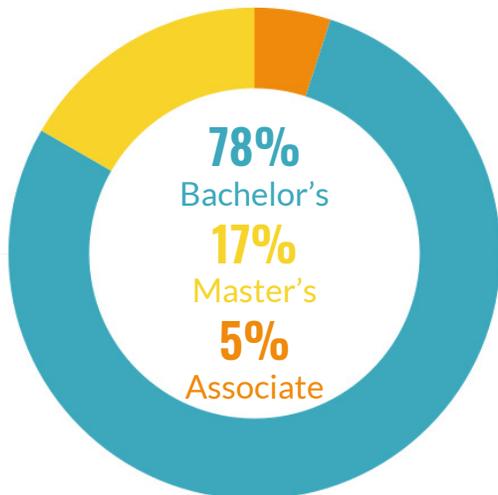
Michiko Martin
 Director, Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources
 Acting Director, Engineering, Technology & Geospatial Services



Resource assistants work across many **disciplines.**

60%

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



1 out of 6 have a **Master's Degree**



Rocky Mountain Region (R2)



IZABEL CASTELLANO

Rocky Mountain Regional Office Center for Design and Interpretation

B.F.A. Digital Design, University of Colorado Denver

My aspirations and passions are rooted in my desire to create intentionally. I strive to make things that have a positive effect on the world around me and with empathy to those that it affects. My favorite facets include print design, motion graphics, illustration, and merchandise design. Music is one of my passions and I love seeing my favorite artists in person at live shows. You will never catch me out in the wild without a book in my bag.



ALEX FERNANDEZ

Shoshone National Forest

B.S., Environment & Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation & Tourism, University of Wyoming

I would like a career in natural resources. I aspire to manage natural resources in a manner that provides for the enjoyment of current and future generations. My hobbies change with location and the seasons. In the summer, I enjoy spearfishing, lobstering, fly fishing, backpacking, hiking, and spending time outdoors with my dog, Tonka. In the winter, I snowboard, snowshoe, and cross-country ski.



BREANNA FRAYER

Black Hills National Forest

B.S. Natural Resource Management & Biology, Grand Valley State University

My career aspiration is to work full time for the U.S. Forest Service or the Environmental Protection Agency. I would like to become an Environmental Scientist and use my knowledge to help sustain the environment and protect human health. My hobbies and interests include traveling, listening to music, working, reading, and writing. My goal is to travel to each state in the U.S. before I turn 30. My favorite music genres are neo soul, opera and hip hop. I am a fan of mystery books and I love writing. I own a lifestyle blog.



CASEY HENRY

Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands

B.A. Biology, Plymouth State University

When I was young, I was fascinated by the fact that you could tell the health of a freshwater ecosystem by the presence or absence of some of the smallest creatures. That inspired me to pursue a Biology Degree and a career with the U.S. Forest Service. I would love to share my knowledge to make conservation a priority for many. Growing up in Vermont I was blessed to have access to the rural country side. I love mountain biking, hiking, kayaking, camping, ATVing, snowmobiling, skiing and snowboarding.



BIANKA MARTINEZ

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

B.S. Biology (Earth & Environmental Science minor), University of Illinois Chicago

I would love to return to school and further my education, then find a position that allows me to merge my love of the outdoors and natural world with my passion for outreach and education. I love sharing my passion and acquired knowledge with other people who are interested in things like the environment, ecology, conservation, and wildlife. One of my favorite hobbies is herping, and hiking trails to learn about native plants and wildlife in an area. Rugby is also one of my passions.



ASIA PFEIFER

San Juan National Forest

B.A. Anthropology & Philosophy, California State University Chico

In my three seasons with the San Juan National Forest, I have been guided by several mentors who have become invaluable to me. I trust the Forest Service to help me develop the skills and wisdom to protect our public lands so that I may pass down such love for our environment to future generations. I would like to find a career empowering youth through land stewardship and become a wilderness specialist. I love backpacking, cooking, learning about the healing qualities of food, running, drawing, and listening to music.



ABIGAIL RADER

Rocky Mountain Regional Office Renewable Resources

B.A. Political Science (Public Policy & Individualized Environmental Science), The College of St. Benedict & St. John's University

Throughout college I've had a growing interest in water policy, and the need for strong, integrated environmental and social policies. My career aspiration is to better understand the various facets and stakeholders of these issues with the intention to aid in development of strong water policies. My hobbies tend to be anything I can do outside. Whether running, rowing, hiking, or skiing, I am always happy in nature.

Southwestern Region (R3)



ABRAHAM ELMIR

Southwestern Regional Office Ecosystem Analysis & Planning

B.S. Environmental Sciences, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

I want to perform scientific research and contribute to practices that address the impact human activities have on the planet. I hope to specialize in, but not be limited to, sustainable urbanization of U.S. cities, focusing on the protection of its surrounding wilderness. My hobbies include biking, running, hiking, soccer, fishing, camping, learning and discussing U.S. history, and traveling to places I haven't been before.



SYDNEE MARTIN

Coronado National Forest

B.A. American Studies, The George Washington University

I hope to blend my love for history and culture into a photography business. I would like to highlight and provide opportunities to underrepresented communities in the leisure and travel industry. I published my first professional fictional work, "Just One Week" at age 15. I would like to write a follow-up novel or other piece of fictional work. I am always willing to try a new hobby when I see something that sparks my interests. I love to read in my free time, and have developed a love of photography, videography, and yoga.



KENNY ORIHUELA

Tonto National Forest

B.S. Geology, California State University Northridge

I want to apply my passion for earth science towards a career in the public sector or a geologic/geotechnical consulting firm. I plan to go to graduate school for a master's degree in geology, researching water science and remediation efforts of contaminated sites. In my free time I like to hike, jog, cook, read, play video games, and hang out with my family and friends. I like soccer and basketball and am a fan of LAFC and the Lakers. I also like to go to the beach and mountains to relax for the day or to camp with my friends.



DAISY RODRIGUEZ

*Shared position, Coronado National Forest & Washington Office Lands and Realty Management
B.S. Spanish, Western Carolina University*

My goal is to work for and grow with the U.S. Forest Service. I would love to pursue a career in environmental health. I enjoy hiking with my dogs, cooking, kayaking, and baking. I also love to travel



BRIDGET TAM

*Southwestern Regional Office Regional Forester Communications and Engagement
B.A. Global Studies (Latin American History minor), Southeast Missouri State University*

My goal is to be able to combine my experience in, and passion for, conservation and education. I want to serve an organization like the Forest Service that works to support environmental conservation, local communities, outdoor education, and connecting people to nature. I am an amateur naturalist and enjoy learning about the flora and fauna of the Southwest.

Intermountain Region (R4)



VALERIA GONZALES

*Intermountain Regional Office Sustainability and Climate Engineering
B.S. Biology, Portland State University*

I am most passionate about climate justice. I am still figuring out the best way to guide my career to be most helpful in the cause, but I'm excited for the experiences and lessons I will have on the journey. I enjoy being involved in community outreach and science education. In my free time, I enjoy surfing, painting and cooking. I have been surfing for about three years now and have been lucky enough to surf the Pacific off Costa Rica. Recently, I have been painting artwork of Peruvian scenery.



BRENDAN LELAND

*Sawtooth National Forest
B.S. Forestry (Geographic Information Systems minor), Stephen F. Austin State University*

I aspire to a lifetime career in the conservation of natural resources so that future generations of the world can experience the beauty and joys that nature has to offer. While at home, I like to spend my spare time reading and I love to experiment with cooking. Outside, my interests include camping, fishing, and seeing new and beautiful places.



ISABELLE STINE

*Dixie National Forest
B.S. Forest Resources & Conservation, University of Florida*

I want to pursue my passion for the outdoors, natural resources, and sustainability, hopefully through working for a federal agency. I would love to work in recreation planning and management at a national forest or park. I also enjoy working with the public through environmental education and getting kids passionate about preserving our planet. I love to hike, go to the beach, and go to concerts with my friends. I enjoy punk and indie music. I also do embroidery and cook.

Pacific Southwest Region (R5)



AMY CARILLO

Pacific Southwest Regional Office Public Services

B.A. Environmental Studies, Fordham University

I aspire to a career in either conservation education or land-use planning. After spending time as a volunteer tutor and participating in a youth programming internship, I understand the importance of providing underserved communities with accessible conservation education. I hope to work in land use planning and to design sustainable spaces that are able to integrate people with nature. In my free time, I hike anywhere I can. One of my most memorable hikes was backpacking through the Rocky Mountains.



JULIO GAXIOLA

Shared position, Sierra and Sequoia National Forests

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

I hope to have a career in public service, helping communities that struggle from many adversities. I plan to strengthen communities by giving them the tools to handle issues such as poverty and environmental injustice. I am considering careers in urban planning and natural resource management. I hope to make valuable connections with others and develop my skills to become a respected leader. My hobbies include hiking, fitness, camping, photography, gaming, and traveling.



ROSA-LEE JIMENEZ

Shared position, Sierra and Sequoia National Forests

B.A. Political Science & Public Administration, California State University Chico

I am a huge nerd for policy formation and enjoy working for non-profits. I have a strong and resilient passion for creating powerful leaders who want to make a difference in their communities. Overall, I want to use my experience with nonprofit administration and management to help advocate for the protection of our communities and environment. My hobbies include hiking, swimming, reading, and the arts. I enjoy writing my own poetry.



SERINA MORALES

Wildland Fire Training Center

B.A. English (Animal Studies minor), New York University

I am passionate about wildlife conservation and our shared environment. My education gave me insight into the ethics surrounding the treatment of animals and our environment. I hope to make a positive impact in environmental public policy, with the goal of making life better for people and animals alike. I enjoy 17th-18th century English literature, and 19th century American literature—works that allow me to peer into the problems, solutions, and triumphs of those who have lived lives different than my own.



FELIX MARTINEZ TORRES

Pacific Southwest Regional Office Public Services

B.S. Business Administration (Information Systems option), California State University Fresno

My career aspiration is to work for a U.S. Department of Agriculture agency in a position directly contributing to agriculture, forestry, or natural resources. I would like to learn and grow with this agency in order to contribute my talents in a way that is satisfying and meaningful. I love going to the gym, playing basketball, camping, and hiking. Recently, I picked up rock climbing as a hobby and love the challenge and community. I'm deeply interested in exploring new places and learning about their culture and history.

Southern Region (R8)



ENI AWOWALE

National Forests in Florida

B.S. Geographical Information Sciences, University of Maryland College Park

I plan to pursue a graduate degree in ecology or a related field. I hope to use my background in GIS and remote sensing to conduct research on how human activities are affecting the world's ecosystems. This past fall, I visited Antarctica for the first time and it was a groundbreaking experience for me. I plan to go back to Antarctica to work as a research scientist. I am an avid backpacker and climber. I have section hiked nearly 200 miles of the Appalachian Trail and backpacked the southernmost trail in the world.



HEIDI BOLES

Kisatchie National Forest

A.A. Central Louisiana Technical Community College

My goal is to complete my associate degree in Business Administration and become a full-time employee on the Kisatchie Ranger District. I want to build a life-long career with this amazing Agency. I love to be active. I am a big sports fan and enjoy playing co-ed softball in the community. Spending time with family and friends is very important to me. I am also interested in trying new things, and traveling to new places.



KASTON BONNER

Kisatchie National Forest

A.S. Louisiana State University Alexandria

My career aspiration is to gain valuable knowledge and wisdom in the forestry field as I pursue this resource assistant opportunity. I believe this job suits my lifestyle, and hope to gain a full-time job with the Forest Service in the future. Being an outdoorsman, I live for the outdoors. Hunting and fishing have been my life since I was a child. Being part of a big family, I also enjoy spending time with family and friends.



CARLA AYALA CRESPO

El Yunque National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science, University of Puerto Rico Río Piedras

As an undergraduate in Environmental Science at the University of Puerto Rico, I was part of various research projects in fields ranging from plant ecology to limnology. I plan to enroll in a master's degree program in wetland science or water resources management to continue learning about ecosystems protection and conservation. In my free time, I enjoy self-study in different topics, such as programming. I enjoy reading, watching films, playing with cats, and appreciating nature.



EDDY KAPP

Kisatchie National Forest

B.S. Natural Resource Conservation Science & Management, University of British Columbia

I want to gain field experience and hone my interests before going to graduate school. My ideal position would combine environmental education and research. I am interested in working internationally, working with other countries to reach conservation goals. I am interested in the fields of forest ecology, herpetology, environmental DNA, fisheries, and marine conservation. I love to backpack, swim, hike, and kayak. I enjoy open water swimming and have completed the Escape from Alcatraz Swim twice.



BLENNA KIROS

Southern Regional Office Resource Information Management

B.A. Geography/GIS, Humboldt State University

Our natural environment has always intrigued me and obtaining solutions to improve its quality is what motivated me to pursue a career in Geography and GIS. What I love about my discipline is its versatility and ability to embrace the works of differing scholars and artists who continue to enrich the field. As a geographer, I aspire to become an expert in my field and eventually make a contribution to science and our contemporary society. In my spare time, I practice yoga and roller skate.



KASHIMA GRESHAM

Southern Regional Office Regional Forester

A.S. Criminal Justice, Georgia State University

I would like a career with the Federal Government, working toward being an executive assistant, or some type of program manager. The Forest Service provides a service to Americans by helping to sustain forests and grasslands for present and future generations, and I want to be a part of providing such an important service. I absolutely love being outside, going on walks, riding bikes, and spending time with my family.



KAYLA HOUSTON

Southern Regional Office Engineering

B.A. Architecture, University of Texas

I aspire to a career in architecture that prioritizes the earth and all people who occupy it. Buildings and structures have such a huge impact on our energy consumption, our use of natural resources, and our communities. I am driven by the potential to create structures that are materially resourceful and that respect the land they occupy. One of my favorite things to do is to find adventure. I also really love art, music, and design. Lately I've been making wire-wrapped sculptures and wood working, and I'm currently building furniture for my new place.



VICTORIA REED

Southern Regional Office Budget and Financial Management

B.B.A. Management, Kennesaw State University

My career aspiration is to be in a position where I am able to advance. Along the way, I hope to learn as many new skill sets as I possibly can. I want to be somewhere where I am constantly learning and finding ways to continue to become a better me within the workplace. I love traveling, and I try to take a trip whenever I can with either my family or friends. When I am home I enjoy just being around my people and enjoying one another. I am always down for a good movie, TV show, or book.



ELLEN ROBSON

George Washington-Jefferson National Forest

B.S. Natural Resources (Conservation & Technology), Oregon State University, Cascades

I aspire to have a meaningful career and a life surrounded by those I love. I'd like to have a career in natural resources where I have autonomy, responsibility, and respect—all the while inspiring others to love the natural world as much as I do. My hobbies are reading, music, nature, animals, family and friends, food, traveling, Star Trek, the X-Files, and puzzles.



FELIX RUBI

Ocala National Forest

B.A. Geography (Geographic Information Systems minor), University of California, Los Angeles

I hope to build on my current skills and move up the ladder of whatever career path I choose. My goal is to be happy and healthy in whatever I decide to build a career in. I grew up playing sports all the way through college. I coach and give pitching lessons to younger kids to help them develop basic but necessary skills and body movements. As a recent graduate, I am very interested in everything related to the transition from an academic institution to the professional world.



KELSEY SCHMITZ

National Forests in North Carolina

M.A. Anthropology, East Carolina University

My areas of focus include early American history, contact period archaeology, archaeology of consumerism, and colonial material culture. I hope to continue working in the field of archaeology, particularly cultural resource preservation, public education, and outreach. My ultimate goal is to use my knowledge and passion for history and material culture to benefit and inspire the public. In my free time I enjoy portrait photography, taking care of my plants, hiking, camping, and anything outdoors.

Eastern Region (R9)



DEANNA BAGINSKI

Mark Twain National Forest

B.S. Parks & Natural Resource Management, Slippery Rock University

My goal is to find a job that I love where I get to be outside. I like to hike, birdwatch, paddle board, read, and be overly competitive in board games.



JASMINE FACUN

Wayne National Forest

M.S. Environmental Studies, Ohio State University

My overarching requirement is that my career serve as a force for good. I can see myself working toward more sustainable management within the Forest Service, with a non-profit like Rural Action, in academia, or even in politics as an environmental advisor. I enjoy homesteading, playing and coaching roller derby, drawing and painting, spending time outside with my family canoeing or swimming in the lake, good documentaries, and traveling. I've lived all over the U.S. and spent three years in the Middle East.



JESSICA FORTNEY

Superior National Forest

M.S. Historic Preservation, Clemson University

I hope to find a fulfilling career in cultural resources, possibly with the Forest Service. I love studying and educating others about historic structures and hope to do that in my career. I enjoy hiking, camping, and nerding out over historic structures.



MARISSA JAYAWICKREMA

Wayne National Forest

B.A. History, University of Hartford

I aspire to have a career either in land conservation or historic preservation. I would love to work in the confluence of history and environmental science. I want to have a meaningful career where I can tangibly improve the lives of those around me as well as protect and ameliorate the ecosystem that I am in. I love cooking, reading, and spending time outside. I recently started rock climbing and backpacking, and I have always enjoyed hiking, kayaking and mountain biking.



NATALIA JESIONKA

Shawnee National Forest

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

I aspire to work at the intersection of engineering and the environment for a more sustainable society. I am passionate about conservation and biodiversity. I hope create developments in cities and neighborhoods that look through the most sustainable lens possible. Leveraging my mathematical skills and problem solving abilities in situations involving the natural environment is important to me. I enjoy listening to podcasts while walking, cooking, and reading mystery books.



KATELYN JONES

Mark Twain National Forest

B.S. Geology & Geophysics, Missouri University of Science and Technology

I aspire to be a senior geologist, working for a company that allows me to be in the field and to travel. I hope to live out west for a short period of time in places like Nevada and Colorado. I want to further my education and obtain a master's degree and possibly a Ph.D. in geology. My hobbies include hiking, gardening, listening to music/podcasts, weight lifting, running, and volunteering. I also like to spend my time studying Spanish and I hope to eventually master this language as well as German.



GABRIELA VILLEGAS MARTINEZ

Green Mountain-Finger Lakes National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

My goal is to help in the protection and restoration of wildlife. My hobbies are hiking, playing video games, and reading.



MARINA MUELLER

Mark Twain National Forest

B.S. Environmental Engineering (Spanish minor), Missouri University of Science and Technology

I would like a career where I can have as much positive impact from my work as possible. My goal is to use my degree in environmental engineering to help minority and underrepresented communities. I would love to help others and promote the importance of environmental justice. In my free time I enjoy playing volleyball and tennis. I also love playing with my dogs and hiking. I recently started a small business for some of my craft hobbies that includes selling knit blankets, macrame wall hangings, and other crafty items.



KRISTIANA PETRIE

Shawnee National Forest

B.A.A. Environmental Science & Biology, Colby College

I'm hoping to gain experience in various aspects of conservation, but I'm especially interested in native habitat restoration. I want to be a part of conservation in various states and places, but I'd like to end up in the East Coast or Hawai'i, which are the places where I grew up. I like hiking, going to the beach, and going to botanical gardens. Besides being outside, I like to bake, read, and dance.



STEVEN REKSTAD

Wayne National Forest

B.S. Mining Engineering, The Pennsylvania State University

My goal is to become the best steward of our country's natural resources and wildlife that I can be. I want to instill a love of nature in others, explore the world, and live a life of outdoor adventure. I enjoy rock climbing, trail running, camping, music production, and cooking.



ALEXANDRA WILLIAMS

Monongahela National Forest

B.S. Integrative Studies (Applied Global Conservation), George Mason University

I am passionate about blending interdisciplinary areas of research to facilitate empowerment in communities directly affected by ecosystem changes due to climate change. I hope to assist in the preservation and adaptation of endangered cultures and species in the Pacific Islands. In 2021, I will pursue a master's degree in resource management. I love trying new sports and staying physically fit. While in West Virginia, I would like to work on my bouldering/ climbing ability. I garden and am very interested in ethnobotany.



OLIVIA WOOSLEY

Mark Twain National Forest

B.S. Forestry & Forest Resource Management, University of Missouri, Columbia

I would like to work in several different disciplines, preferably within the Forest Service. I hope to give wildfire fighting a try, either out west or in the southeast, and I plan to travel for work for the next few years. I love spending time outside swimming, biking, hiking, and walking my dog. I love botany and plant/tree identification, especially regarding local wild edibles.

Alaska Region (R10)



MELISSA ALLEN

Tongass National Forest

M.S. Earth Observation & Geographic Information Management, University of Edinburgh

I'd like to deepen my technical and soft skills and build a career based on leadership in environmental sustainability and community development. I enjoy trying new recipes and cooking from scratch. I'm also learning to play the harmonica.



OLIVIAH FRANKE

Alaska Regional Office Recreation, Lands, and Minerals

M.S. Natural Resources, Environmental Education & Science Communication, University of Idaho

My goal is to connect youth to their environment, public lands, green spaces, and planet. I believe strongly in the power of helping youth and adults develop strong emotional connections to nature as a way of starting to address climate change. I would love to accomplish this through a career with the Forest Service. I enjoy kayaking and hiking, and love to write letters, journal, and watercolor.



AURORA TAYLOR

Tongass National Forest

B.S. Environmental Science (Climate Change minor), Utah State University

I plan to go onto graduate school for coastal ecology to study how climate change will impact fish phenology and range shifts. I hope to apply this knowledge protecting coastal resources of the Pacific Northwest. In the summer months, I enjoy mountain biking, fly fishing for salmon, and deep sea fishing for halibut. In the winter, I can be found alpine skiing every weekend. When the weather is too bad for outdoor recreation, I enjoy reading sci-fi novels and experimenting with new recipes.

Research and Development (R&D)



TABETHA BLOCK

Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry

B.A. Geography (Anthropology minor), University of Hawai'i, Hilo

My career aspirations are to help empower early professionals to serve and care for Hawai'i's biocultural landscapes and communities by exposing them to the rich opportunities that the Forest Service and its partners have to offer. In my spare time I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family and friends, traveling, and gardening. I am a hobbyist beekeeper.



SARA GRILLO

Washington Office Research & Development

M.S. Environmental Science, University of Tennessee Chattanooga

I would like to use my scientific training to promote conservation and stewardship of the environment. I have experience in academia, education, and private consultation, and I hope to find a job that combines my expertise and allows me to guide decisions and inform the public about conservation efforts. I enjoy birding, hiking, and exploring new parks. I like sewing to extend the life of my clothes and coloring postcards to communicate with loved ones. I practice yoga and keep a few cultures for sourdough, kombucha, and kimchi.



SUJING MAY

National Agroforestry Center

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.



ARACELI MORALES-SANTOS

Pacific Southwest Research Station

M.S. Conservation Ecology, University of Michigan

I aspire to be a conservation biologist. My goal is to manage and guide the development of major land restoration and conservation projects across the country. I believe strong partnerships with nonprofits, communities, and state governments are necessary and critical to achieve this level of conservation. One of my favorite things to do when I am home is to go hiking with my parents on the weekends. I enjoy gardening, taking care of houseplants, and birding.

Washington Office (WO)



JONATHAN BLACKMON

Washington Office Lands and Realty Management

M.A. International Affairs (Comparative Regional Studies), American University

I would like to create a role where I facilitate environmental dialogue that combats institutional racism within Latin America—a role that operates at the nexus of environmental justice, public policy implementation, and public land use management within the racialized context of other states in the Americas. This could theoretically look like a role where I facilitate environmental land use cooperation between the U.S. and countries like Colombia. I enjoy dancing and playing basketball.



BRYAN FLORES

Washington Office Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers

B.S. Environmental Science & Management (GIS minor), University of California Davis

I recognize climate change’s disproportionate effects on communities of color and other historically marginalized populations, and hope to work with these communities to link impactful science with its societal implications. I hope to reflect these ideals in my work with the Forest Service and beyond! I also enjoy engaging in creative pursuits like photography, videography, watching movies, writing, and cooking.



KENDRA HARGROVE

Washington Office Business Operations

B.S. Business Administration, Morgan State University

My career aspiration is to work in the Human Resource field while also being actively involved in real estate. My interests are music, movies, and cooking.



JENNY KHATRI

Washington Office National Forest System BASS

B.A. Communications (Public Relations), Rutgers University

I’m most interested in the connections between citizens of the world and our global impact. I have an interest in environmental sustainability, environmental health and safety, community development, and nonprofit, so I’m looking into career options in those areas. I envision myself working for an environmental organization driven by purposeful, people-focused work. I like journaling, reading, spending time in the sun, new cuisines and places to eat, watching reality TV, hiking, and learning astrology.



DYLAN KUBINA

Washington Office Lands and Realty Management

M.E.S. Ecological Restoration, The Pennsylvania State University and Evergreen College

I hope to make big decisions on land use in the environmental resource management field. Eventually I would like to instruct students about wildlife conservation or ecological restoration at a university, while performing research of my own. I enjoy making experimental music and reading graphic novels. Any time I get to be creative is time well spent! I love being crafty, as well as getting outside to observe plants and birds.



LAUREN ONOFRIO

Washington Office Office of Sustainability and Climate

M.S. Forest Ecology, The Pennsylvania State University

My goal is to be an ecologist for the U.S. Forest Service and to implement management practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change on forest trees. My hobbies are mountain biking, sewing, and playing frisbee with my dog.



EDGAR ORTUÑO

Washington Office Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources

B.S. Sustainability Studies, University of California Riverside

I aspire to be a tenured professor of environmental studies or anthropology at a local university in California enjoying the great outdoors my home state has to offer. I also look forward to fulfilling my goal of becoming a future folklórico dance researcher and teacher, finally establishing my own professional dance company filled with a repertoire of queer-Mexican choreographic narratives. I'm a filmmaker, photographer, and ballet folklórico dancer who enjoys working on expressive, creative projects year-round.



ZHEER SAEED

Washington Office Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer 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.

Job Corps (JCCC)



BRYAN TRUJILLO

Franklin NC Job Corps Center

B.S. Computer Engineering, Florida International University

I would like to work for a government agency like the FBI, CIA, or NSA in the field of Cyber Security, Digital Forensics, and/or Networking. I am studying at CompTIA's Security+ and would like to get the Certified Ethical Hacker certification. I play video games, browse the web to watch videos, and listen to music. I also like to exercise at the gym, and cook and enjoy good food.

Units can recruit resource assistants for Fall and Spring cohorts onboarding.
The Spring cohort is tentatively scheduled for onboarding in April 2021.
The Fall FY22 cohort will be onboarded in September 2021.

Please 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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.