The Kayler lab in the Soil and Water Systems Department at the University of Idaho is seeking 2 PhD fellows for a USDA national needs fellowship (NNF) program in forest soil health.

We seek two candidates to join a highly competitive program in Forest Soil Science at the University of Idaho (UI) in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station and the French National Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), Nancy.

Program description: We have designed an innovative program that links an established soil science program at UI directly with USDA Forest Service personnel and training programs. The program consists of coursework in forest soil science and methods as well as leadership and teaching training. The NNF Fellows will travel to INRAE (Nancy, France) in the summer between their second and third years for up to two months. USDA National Need Fellows receive $24,500/yr as stipend with opportunities of US Forest Service employment during summer months.

Possible projects include 1) addressing hazard tree disposal problems by creating and using biochar to restore soil carbon and enhance water holding capacity and nutrient retention after wildfire; 2) understanding how the loss of forest canopy cover and an altered forest floor may affect nutrient cycling leaching losses; or 3) linking the standard indices of fire severity with the amount and distribution of carbon lost within the soil profile. Fellows will work with project directors to formulate the most relevant research questions and approaches tailored to their career objectives.

Dr. Zachary Kayler, University of Idaho, Moscow (www.kaylerlab.org) Dr. Debbie Page-Dumroese, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station (https://www.fs.fed.us/research/people/profile.php?alias=ddumroese).
Dr. Delphine Derrien, French National Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (https://www6.nancy.inrae.fr/bef/Publications/Delphine-DERRIEN)

How to Apply: These fellowships are funded through the USDA's National Needs Fellowship program, which requires U.S. citizenship. The university and department have a strong commitment to achieving diversity among student and future faculty and staff. We are particularly interested in receiving applications from members of underrepresented groups and strongly encourage women and persons of color to apply for these positions. Candidates will have a background in forest soils and a strong interest in advancing their careers in forest science as a professional or academic. A Master's degree is preferred, but highly qualified candidates with a bachelor's degree may apply after contacting the project directors. The program begins Fall semester 2022.

Please contact Dr. Kayler for more information at the website kaylerlab.org and navigate to the contact page. Please attach: (1) a one-page cover letter describing your academic and research experience, reasons for pursuing graduate school, your specific current research interests; and (2) your curriculum vitae.

Thanks!