Post Doc Job Description
The US Forest Service Wood Identification & Screening Center (WISC) at Oregon State University invites applications for postdoctoral fellowships in stable isotope and botanical provenacing for a two-year position in Corvallis, OR. A successful candidate will join WISC, a wood identification forensic service provider and research laboratory with specialization in mass spectrometry. The main goal of WISC is to support enforcement of the U.S. Lacey Act and Endangered Species Act with respect to the timber trade. Illegal logging is the third largest transnational crime.

Applications from recent Ph.D.s (including those to be awarded at the end of Spring or Summer 2020) in the fields of stable isotope geochemistry and geospatial mapping are encouraged to apply.

This position will:
- Work with the Wood Identification & Screening Center (WISC) on wood identification technologies for determining wood origin
- Collaborate with and receive training from global WISC partners who have expertise in Stable Isotope Ratio Analysis for timber origin identification
- Lead projects that apply stable isotope ratio analysis (SIRA) for timber origin identification
- Investigate combinational methods of wood identification to improve origin authentication of wood products

At WISC, we value diversity and recognize its role in enriching work and innovation. One of WISC’s goals is to diversify forensic science and related fields through student engagement, international collaboration, and public outreach. To align with these goals, applicants should be willing to foster a welcoming, inclusive, anti-racist community to all individuals regardless of physical ability, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, nationality, or personal religious practices.

Decision Making Guidelines:
Incumbent will work with WISC staff to make decisions about the training and methods development needs for bringing globally tested SIRA techniques for timber origin authentication to WISC. Incumbent will develop and share research ideas with WISC staff for collaborative decisions on research pursuits that further methodologies for timber origin identification. The Incumbent will regularly communicate with the supervisor and WISC Director to update progress and review findings.

Position Duties:
25% – Cooperate with global experts on SIRA for wood origin authentication to receive training on analytical and interpretation methods. This will include travel to Europe for in-person training, as well as maintaining communications and productive working relationships with these global partners.

60% - Research
- Cooperate with a US-based SIRA lab for wood sample analyses. This will include preparing wood samples at WISC for sending to the lab, receiving analytical results, and interpreting the data.
- Conduct research on SIRA and combinational wood identification methods that improve accuracy of timber origin authentication, with an emphasis on methods which are practical and cost-effective for meeting law enforcement needs

10% – Preparation of written results into publishable format, and submission to peer reviewed journals. Presentation of results at scientific conferences and/or meetings.

5% - Professional Development: Attend conferences relevant to the field. Work with the mentor on successful transition to the next career stage.
**Application procedure:** We encourage all interested applicants to apply for this position by sending all application materials to Kristen Finch (Kristen.finch@oregonstate.edu) by April 1, 2021. Interested applicants should submit: (a) a curriculum vita with a list of publications, (b) the names of at least three professional references, their e-mail addresses, and telephone contact numbers and (c) a cover letter or email describing their interests and experiences in the topic area, goals, and how they meet the required position qualifications outlined below.

**Minimum Qualifications:**
- PhD with thesis research in the areas of SIRA and/or spatial distribution mapping
- Experience conducting stable isotope ratio analyses and interpreting results
- Professional competence in planning, designing, executing, and coordinating research
- Demonstrated proficiency for independently writing scientific publications for submittal to peer-reviewed journals
- Strong communication skills that allow for working effectively as a member of a team and with global partners
- This position is designated as a critical or security-sensitive position; therefore, the incumbent must successfully complete a criminal history check and be determined to be position qualified as per OSU Standard 576-055-0000 et seq. Incumbents are required to self-report convictions and those in youth programs may have additional criminal history checks every 24 months.

**Preferred (Special) Qualifications:**
- Previous research in botanical field(s)
- A demonstrable commitment to promoting and enhancing diversity