

Volunteer Position Description

- Position:** Fire Ecology Field Assistant
- Location:** Ossipee Pine Barrens Preserve, Ossipee, Freedom, Madison & Tamworth, NH
- Timing:** Fire effects monitoring will occur for approximately 100 hours throughout the summer, including two days of in-the-field training.
- Up to two field assistants will be selected, and they may divide the work between themselves, or work together. Field assistants can work on their own schedule but must commit to the full project season.
- Position Details:** The Ossipee Pine Barrens Preserve protects the last intact pine barrens in New Hampshire, a fire-adapted forest found only on dry, sandy soils. Since 2007, The Nature Conservancy has been using controlled burns to restore and maintain the health of this globally rare forest type. The field assistant will provide data critical to understanding what conditions are necessary for a controlled burn to produce the “fire effects” needed for a thriving pitch pine-scrub oak woodland. Read more about the [Ossipee Pine Barrens Preserve](#).
- Duties:**
- Use GPS and compass to navigate between sample points in a burn unit
 - Collect data on canopy cover, seedling regeneration, sapling regrowth, and fire-intolerant species mortality using line and radial transects
 - Use a rule, DBH tape, and calipers to take precise measurements
 - Consistently identify pitch pine, white pine, American beech, red oak, red maple, and aspen of varying age groups
 - Record data on a tablet in the field, and transfer to a centralized database
 - Travel all day, off trail, through extremely dense undergrowth, in potentially inclement weather, especially in heat and humidity
 - Practice responsible tick prevention and removal
- Supervisor:** Cassie Bernyk, (603) 356-8833, cassandra.bernyk@tnc.org