

## **Position Prospectus: Native American Forestry Northern Arizona University, School of Forestry**

**Background:** One of the six goals in NAU's strategic plan is Commitment to Native Americans. Specific strategies address enrollment and retention, outreach and engagement, and promotion of Native American cultures and tribal nations. To help achieve these goals, NAU currently has a special hiring initiative that allows for the direct recruitment of Native American faculty members who have the requisite qualifications and meet specific programmatic needs.

The School of Forestry strongly supports these goals. We have had some notable successes over the years in graduating Native American students and conducting research of relevance to Native American communities. However, since the retirement of a faculty member who specialized in Native American forestry and natural resource management, we have lost the capacity to offer courses such as *Native American Ecology* and *Indigenous Conservation Knowledge* and have also lost an important mentor.

**The Opportunity:** We are currently looking for a faculty member with expertise in forestry or a closely related field. The rank and nature of the assignment is negotiable, but tentatively would have the following components at approximately the specified percentages.

Teaching: (40%)

Possible courses include:

FOR 270: Native American Ecology

FOR 370: Indigenous Conservation Knowledge

AIS 470: Ethnobotany

Additional or alternative course(s) could be developed, possibly including Native American Natural Resource Management and a graduate course on conducting culturally sensitive research on tribal lands. The faculty member might also teach components of other courses, such as in the junior year of our professional program or our "401 Program" courses, which primarily serve BIA employees.

We are also looking for a faculty member who can serve as an effective mentor and graduate student advisor for Native American students, with the goal of increasing their retention and helping them connect with potential employers.

Research: (30%)

The expectation here is flexible, but ideally the faculty member's research would focus on natural resource management issues on tribal lands and/or at the interface of tribal and adjacent lands.

Service: (10%)

Service expectations would be identical to most other School of Forestry faculty, which are typically set at 10% and include a mix of service to the School, University and profession.

Outreach: (20%)

Part of the faculty member's assignment could include a liaison role to tribes and particularly to tribal/BIA colleges in this region, especially those with natural resource degree programs. The goal would be to strengthen partnerships with tribes and colleges that could lead to greater numbers of students transferring to NAU for B.S. or graduate degrees, as well as increasing the amount of research conducted on tribal lands.

The faculty member may also be able to serve as a liaison to the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and other key federal natural resource management agencies, all of which have a strong interest in diversifying their workforce. Some like the BIA have specific programs (e.g., "TREES") to increase Native American students in natural resources and the faculty member could help us engage more with these.

The faculty member could also perform valuable outreach on behalf of our school and the university as a whole via engagement with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, the Intertribal Timber Council, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society or similar organizations.

**Relationship to other Departments and Centers:** Although the faculty member would be based in the School of Forestry, we envision that he or she would work with the Applied Indigenous Studies (AIS) Department and perhaps with the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals. In the case of AIS, at least some of the courses taught could be cross-listed and help meet the needs of AIS degree programs, including their graduate certificate in tribal leadership.

**Contact Information:** If you would like to learn more about this position, please contact Dr. James (Jim) Allen, Executive Director, School of Forestry, at 928-523-5894 or via email at [James.Allen@nau.edu](mailto:James.Allen@nau.edu).