

**Office of State Budget and Management
Establish New, Receipt-Supported Positions
(G.S. 143-34.1)**

Agency: DENR

Division: FOREST RESOURCES

Budget Code: 14300

Center Title: DFR – Forestry – Field Organization

Center Number: 1210 - 2427

***** Position Information *****

Proposed Classification: Program Assistant V Proposed Salary Grade: 61

Salary Range: \$21,219 - \$22,251 Proposed Effective Date: 1 / 1 / 04

Number of Positions: 2 temporary positions

	<u>Center Authorized Budget</u>	<u>Current Request</u>
Total Budget	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 46,000.00
Receipts	\$ 46,000.00	<u>\$ 46,000.00</u>
Appropriation	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Funding Source(s): The funding source is 100 % from a federal grant awarded by the Joint Fire Science Program to principal investigators Roberta Bartlette, Jim Reardon and Gary M. Curcio. Over the next three years the Project: “Characterizing Moisture Regimes for Assessing Fuel Availability In North Carolina Vegetation Communities” is to be implemented by the inter-agencies responsible for wildfire and prescribed fire in North Carolina’s forests under the coordination by NCDFR principal investigator, Gary M. Curcio.

Justification for Positions: (including description of duties and responsibilities):

North Carolina’s forest fuel complexes possess deep organic soils and significant live fuel components that present challenges to fire behavior prediction, and natural resource managers in protecting and managing NC’s natural resources while affording for the protection and safety of NC’s citizens. Both live fuels and organic soils have narrow thresholds between not burning and sustaining combustion. When combustion is sustained, in either live fuels or organic soils, suppression becomes difficult and hazardous. Improved knowledge of live fuel availability and organic soils likelihood to burn would address the increasing the need to reduce fuel loads, manage wildlife habitat and maintain healthy vegetation complexes while maintaining air quality standards. NC’s vegetation types with their volatile and deep organic soils present some of the greatest challengers to fire managers.

Statutory Reference for Request

Sheryl Stephens

Presentation to be made by

Legislative Liaison

Title

Agency Head Signature

State Budget Officer Signature