



ETH zürich



Cluster hire of four PhD positions and one PostDoc position on the Multiscale relationships between forest structure, saproxylic diversity, deadwood decay and carbon cycle in a changing world (MULTIFORDECA)

This collaborative project investigates the dynamics of deadwood in forests and its critical role for biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, and the carbon cycle under changing climate and management conditions. Using extensive long-term forest inventory and biodiversity data across major temperate forest types, the project integrates remote sensing, molecular, isotopic, and modeling approaches to understand how deadwood quantity and quality affect decomposer communities, carbon storage, and ecosystem processes from local to landscape scales.

The project aims to deliver novel insights into deadwood-related biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, and carbon dynamics in forests of the future. Its four work packages address (1) the relationships between forest structure, deadwood, and saproxylic diversity; (2) the temporal modeling of the decay of standing and lying deadwood; (3) the tracing of deadwood-derived carbon in soils; and (4) linking decomposer activity to carbon cycling and upscaling results for functional and conservation applications.

We invite interested candidates with a background in biodiversity, forestry, ecosystem sciences or related fields to apply. The Postdoc position is funded for two years with a possible extension to four years. The PhD positions are funded for four years and will be accompanied with enrollment at a degree granting university (e.g., ETHZ, UZH).

We expect to start the project in spring 2026. Salary and benefits are competitive. Candidates interested in multiple positions can apply for several projects, but should cross-reference this in their applications. Details about individual projects can be found at the respective links below; questions can be addressed to the respective project leaders. All involved institutes offer a unique research and work environment and are committed to promoting equal opportunities for women and men and to support the compatibility of family and work.

The positions listed below are opening now and the selection of candidates will start early next year.

More information can be found on <https://www.wsl.ch/en/projects/multifordeca/>



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Bern University
of Applied Sciences

For the following Work packages, we are now looking for competitive candidates:

WP 1: Saproxylic communities and forest structures across spatial scales (2 PhDs)

Leads: Martina Hobi (WSL) & Thibault Lachat (HAFL)

WSL: PhD position with a focus on remote sensing (with Martina Hobi & Christian Ginzler):

<https://apply.refline.ch/273855/1819/pub/1/index.html>

BFH-HAFL: PhD position with a focus on saproxylic communities (with Thibault Lachat):

<https://ohws.prospective.ch/public/v1/jobads/5940c434-7194-494a-8d8c-67753f2ca8e6>

WP 2: Temporal deadwood dynamics (1 PhD)

Lead: Harald Bugmann (ETH Zürich)

ETH: PhD position on modelling temporal deadwood dynamics.

This position has already been filled.

WP 3: From deadwood to soil: carbon and nutrient pools and fluxes (1 PhD)

Lead: Frank Hagedorn (WSL)

PhD position with a focus on deadwood derived carbon in soil:

<https://apply.refline.ch/273855/1818/pub/1/index.html>

WP 4: Synthesis, Upscaling, Integration (1 PostDoc)

Lead: Martin Gossner (WSL)

WSL: PostDoc working on synthesizing, upscaling and integrating of the results of the other WPs.

<https://apply.refline.ch/273855/1798/pub/1/index.html>