

Joseph Rua
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Joseph Rua is a master's student in Ecology and Evolution, where his research focuses on wildfire and fuel loading in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. More broadly, Joseph is interested in forestry, landscape ecology, and the confluence of science and policy in government. Prior to his graduate work, Joseph earned his political science and public policy degree at Rutgers University. He then went on to work as a social science researcher at the Education and Employment Research Center at Rutgers, where his work focused on curriculum redesign and workforce development at community colleges. Joseph was a Harold and Reba Martin Graduate Fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics and worked with the DEP on GIS and land management issues.

This summer, as a USDA Forest Service Northern Research Center for Resilient Landscapes Fellow, Joseph is working with the Silas Little Experimental Forest researchers in New Lisbon, NJ on a project to explore the viability of hand laser scanners as tools to estimate surface fuel loading. This work, which is also Joseph's thesis work for his Master's degree, hopes to develop a new technique for estimating surface fuel loads. Joseph will be working with the USFS researchers to calibrate the scanner and compare scanning results with currently established methods of estimating fuel loading.