

Two Graduate Student Opportunities in the Soil Biogeochemistry Lab

Two grad student assistantships are currently available to prospective students interested in the Soil Biogeochemistry Lab in the College of Forestry at UM.

I am currently seeking one MS or PhD student to conduct research related to a recently funded NSF proposal to investigate soil biogeochemical and microbial community development in sites that have been recently deglaciated. Successful applicants will be expected to contribute to the funded work and to develop an independent thesis project that complements ongoing work. The work will be conducted primarily in the North Cascades (WA), but projects could also be developed in the other core sites (Peru and Alaska). In addition, successful applicants must be willing to work independently in remote and sometimes challenging high altitude or high latitude environments. I am also seeking one MS student to investigate the factors regulating late-seral woody plant abundance on alluvial sites along the upper Missouri River in central Montana. In particular, we seek to understand how multiple factors (e.g., water availability, soil texture and stratigraphy, livestock grazing) affect species composition. In addition, successful applicants will be encouraged to develop independent projects related to the funded research. Site access will likely require multi-day canoe trips and working in remote locations independently. (Note: This position is contingent on anticipated funding). Applicants should have a strong record of academic excellence, some prior field and/or laboratory experience, and a demonstrated interest in soils and/or ecosystems research. Student support will include a combination of teaching/research assistantships, a stipend and a tuition waiver. To apply: Please email the following application materials (as one document) to Dr. Cory Cleveland at cory.cleveland@umontana.edu: 1) a current resume or CV, including GPA and test scores (if available); 2) a letter of interest, including research interests, professional goals and prior experience; 3) contact information; and 4) Email addresses of three potential references.