



MS ASSISTANTSHIP AVAILABLE:

Post-fire western larch regeneration under changing climate conditions



Overview: A two-year MS assistantship is available at the University of Montana to join a research team studying post-fire conifer regeneration and reforestation strategies under climate change. The project is funded by the USGS through the North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, supporting one academic year and one summer as a research assistant (RA); a teaching assistantship will fund the additional year of graduate school. [The project](#) contributes to our understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on post-fire tree regeneration, and helps improve a tool to help managers prioritize post-fire management.

The successful candidate will undertake field work and tree-ring analysis to quantify the relationship between western larch recruitment and seasonal climate conditions across its range in the northwestern US. The student will interact with collaborating researchers and land managers with expertise in tree physiology, silviculture, and landscape, fire, and forest ecology. The successful candidate will join the [PaleoEcology and Fire Ecology Lab](#) in the Dept. of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences, in the [W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation](#). Most students in the Lab pursue graduate degrees through the [Systems Ecology](#) graduate program.



Qualifications:

- Strong academic record, with a BS or BA in ecology, biology, forestry, geography, or related field.
- Field work experience in plant, fire, or forest ecology; experience in remote settings is an asset.
- Research experience; data analysis, GIS, and/or experience with R is an asset.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Enthusiasm, curiosity, and enjoys working in a collaborative setting.

To apply: Interested students should contact Dr. Kim Davis (Kimberley.davis@umontana.edu) and Dr. Philip Higuera (philip.higuera@umontana.edu). Please include (1) a brief description of your research interests, professional goals, and relevant prior experiences, and (2) a resume or CV that includes your undergraduate GPA; (3) optional but encouraged: a writing sample from a relevant prior academic experience. After a Zoom interview and screening, competitive candidates must apply the graduate school at the University of Montana. The successful candidate could start as early as May 2021, to prepare for field work over the summer of 2021.

The University of Montana is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer.

Link to a PDF of this add: www.cfc.umt.edu/research/paleoecologylab/ms_2021.pdf