

Full Announcement 10-07--2009

Montana State University, Department of Ecology
Bozeman, Montana
Vacancy Announcement

**Terrestrial Animal Community Ecologist
Assistant Professor of Ecology**

Starting Date: August 2010 preferred

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Departmental Information: The Ecology Department at Montana State University is part of the College of Letters and Science. Established as a separate department in 1999, Ecology is recognized as a leading department in both teaching and research that addresses fundamental and applied ecological questions for Montana, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the Northern Rockies, and further afield. The department offers B.S. degrees with emphases in Ecology and Evolution, Fish and Wildlife Management, Organismal Biology, and Biology Teaching, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Biological Sciences, Fish and Wildlife Biology, and Ecology and Environmental Sciences. With approximately 260 undergraduate majors and 65 graduate students, the department has one of the largest and most active graduate programs at Montana State University. The department also houses Montana's USGS Cooperative Fishery Research Unit.

The department maintains close ties with the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics, Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, Plant Science and Plant Pathology, Animal and Range Sciences, as well as the Big Sky Institute. Collaborating resource agencies include Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the USGS Northern Rockies Science Center, both headquartered on campus, as well as Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and the Gallatin National Forest. Montana State University is a founding member of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) and home to the Yellowstone NEON ecological observatory.

Founded in 1893 as a Land Grant University, Montana State University is composed of seven colleges and a Division of Graduate Education and boasts a friendly, supportive faculty and campus environment. Currently, the University hosts an enrollment of about 12,000 students, including over 1500 graduate students. MSU is located in Bozeman, an extended community of about 40,000 nestled in the Rocky Mountains in southwest Montana. In addition to providing access to an extraordinary ecosystem for teaching and research programs, Bozeman is renowned for year-round recreational and cultural opportunities. The airport is served by four national airlines.

The city of Bozeman boasts high quality medical facilities, very low crime rate, many fine restaurants, acclaimed public and private schools, a symphony orchestra and choir, an annual opera, and nationally known events such as the Sweet Pea Festival. The K-12 educational system, growing reputation of Montana State University, and pristine natural environment of the area combine to make Bozeman one of America's most desirable university towns.



Duties and Responsibilities

Montana State University's Department of Ecology seeks a Terrestrial Animal Community Ecologist at the level of Assistant Professor. We seek individuals with interests in fundamental ecological questions and the use of ecological theory to solve important applied problems. The position is part of a clustered hire in community ecology to complement our existing strength in population biology. Research programs that would integrate well with the existing faculty's research programs are especially desired. Possibilities include plant-animal interactions, community ecology of small or meso-mammals, and the influence of climate change and anthropogenic changes on ecological communities and wildlife management. Opportunities exist to collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to understand ecosystem processes in the Greater Yellowstone region, Intermountain West, Northern Great Plains, and elsewhere; consequently, we desire candidates with effective interpersonal skills and a strong interest in participating in integrative programs involving multiple disciplines and both academic and natural resource management professionals. The successful candidate's teaching assignment will likely include introductory biology, mammalogy or a fish and wildlife capstone, and an upper-division undergraduate or graduate-level class dependent upon the applicant's interest and expertise and the needs and interests of the department. The successful candidate will be expected to maintain an excellent program of research and publication that includes graduate student participation. There is also an expectation that at least a portion of the research program will be based in the region. Montana State University is an institution that is committed to cultural diversity and encourages applications from women and members of underrepresented groups.

Required qualifications:

- PhD in Ecology, Fish and Wildlife Management/Biology, or a closely related field.
- A solid record of research and publication, commensurate with time expired since the candidate received his/her degree.
- Potential to secure extramural funding from multiple sources
- An emphasis on field-oriented research
- College or university-level teaching experience.

Preferred qualifications:

- Strong background and interest in undergraduate and graduate education.
- Strong background and interest in interdisciplinary or collaborative research.
- Research experience that addresses both basic ecology and applied problems.
- Ability to effectively mentor a diverse student body, including women and minorities.
- Participation in service to the profession.

Application Procedure:

Screening of applications will begin January 15, 2008 and continue until a suitable candidate is found. The Department of Ecology is strongly committed to faculty diversity, and women and minority candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest addressing the required and preferred qualifications, a CV, description of research accomplishments and future directions, statement of teaching experience and interests, copies of up to three publications, and names and full contact information of three references by January 15, 2008 to:

Plant Community Ecology Search Committee

c/o Judy Van Andel

310 Lewis Hall

Montana State University

Bozeman, MT 59717

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ADD: ADA/EO/AA STATEMENT