

Post-Doc Available to Study Climate-Wildfire-Forest Dynamics in Siberian Arctic

Position Function

A post-doctoral research associate position is available with Dr. Heather Alexander and the Forest and Fire Ecology Lab (<http://forestfire.fwrc.msstate.edu/>) in the Department of Forestry at Mississippi State University. The successful candidate will coordinate and conduct observational and experimental field studies, analyze scientific data, and write and publish scientific papers and proposals as part of a collaborative NSF grant aimed at investigating the implications of a changing fire regime on forest recovery and climate feedbacks in the Siberian Arctic. The post-doc will interact with scientists from collaborating institutions, including Colgate University, Western State Colorado University, University of Dayton, University of Florida, Northern Arizona University, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Melnikov Permafrost Institute.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

The primary responsibilities will include: 1) coordinating and conducting summer fieldwork focused on larch forest recovery post-fire in the Russian Far East at field sites near the Northeast Science Station in Cherskiy, Russia and near the Spasskaya Pad Scientific Forest Station near Yakutsk, Russia for durations of 1-2 months, 2) leading a field crew consisting of scientists and students from the U.S. and Russia, 3) processing field samples, 4) analyzing data, 5) writing scientific manuscripts and proposals, and 6) presenting research findings at meetings and conferences.

Minimum Qualifications

The successful candidate must have: 1) a PhD Degree in Biology, Forestry, Wildlife, Natural Resources, Ecology, or related discipline by the time of hire, 2) excellent writing and oral presentation skills, 3) excellent interpersonal and organizational skills, 4) demonstrated field work experience and field crew leadership in ecology, 5) demonstrated experience working independently and with a team, 6) a valid passport and ability to travel abroad, and 7) strong work ethic and professionalism.

Preferred Qualifications

Preference will be given to candidates with: 1) experience or demonstrated interest in working in forested ecosystems, 2) conducting field work in remote locations in sometimes challenging conditions (bugs, heat/cold, jet-lag), 3) conducting forest inventories, soil sampling, and seeding experiments, and 4) ability to find solutions to sometimes difficult logistical issues.

Working Conditions and Physical Effort

Work will involve travel to remote international locations. Moderate physical activity. Requires physical work; lifting, pushing, or pulling required of objects up to 30 pounds. Work may involve exposure to unusual elements, such as extreme temperatures, dirt, dust, fumes, smoke, unpleasant odors, insects and wildlife.

Salary and Term

This a full-time, 12-mo position, renewable for up to 24-mo with satisfactory performance, and may be extended if future funding permits. Salary is \$45k plus benefits. The ideal start date is June 1, 2018 but could be later if necessary. Temporary housing is provided at field stations during the field season. Travel cost to and from field sites is provided.

Department Profile

The Department of Forestry is one of three departments in the College of Forest Resources and the Mississippi State University's Forest and Wildlife Research Center. Departmental activities include undergraduate and graduate instruction, research, and extension programs in forestry and natural resources. The Department has excellent facilities in Thompson Hall on the campus of Mississippi State University. The Measurements and Spatial Technologies Laboratory is devoted to measurements, biometrics, and geospatial research in natural resources. It houses a dual server for large data storage and PC workstations with a variety of GIS, image analysis, and statistical software. The MSU John W. Starr Memorial Forest, an 8,244-acre research and teaching forest, and the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge and Tombigbee National Forest are near the university and are used for teaching and research activities. Mississippi State University is a Carnegie High Research Activity institution and a land grant university which includes the Mississippi State University Extension Service. The university is located in Starkville, a beautiful college town in northeast Mississippi (www.msstate.edu/web/about).

Instructions for Application

Applications must include a cover letter describing interest in the position, CV, unofficial transcripts showing completion of PhD (or progress towards for ABD candidates), and contact information for three professional references and should be sent electronically to Dr. Heather Alexander (heather.alexander@msstate.edu). If selected for interview, Applications must also be made through the Mississippi State University Employment opportunities website via the link <http://www.msujobs.msstate.edu/> (PARF #496665). Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability or veteran status