



**Montana State University
Bozeman**

**Faculty Position
Vacancy Announcement**



Assistant Professor of Ecology - Plant Community Ecologist
[Department of Ecology](#)

Search Number 1019-2

Starting Date August 2010 preferred.

Salary Commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tenure track academic year appointment.

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 Ecology 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 academic colleges and a graduate school and boasts a friendly, supportive faculty and campus environment. Currently, the University hosts an enrollment of over 12,000 students, including approximately 1,200 graduate students. MSU is recognized as one of 94 U.S. research universities representing the top tier of the Carnegie Foundation rankings. MSU is located in Bozeman, MT an extended community of about 70,000 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 to include access to world class ski areas, blue-ribbon trout fishing streams and the Gallatin National Forest. The local airport is served by four national airlines and is the second busiest airport in the state. Named an All American City, 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 held in early August of each year. Skiing Magazine

identified Bozeman, with three major ski areas within an hour's drive, as the fourth top US skiing town in its September 2004 Magazine. Bizjournals.com ranked Bozeman #2 on the list of American Dreamtowns - small towns that offer the best quality of life without metropolitan hassles. 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. Bozeman is located in the beautiful Gallatin Valley, 90 miles north of Yellowstone National Park.

Duties and Responsibilities

Seeking a Plant Community Ecologist, at the level of Assistant Professor, with a promising research and teaching record and a focus on community composition, structure and processes in terrestrial ecosystems. The position is part of a clustered hire in community ecology to complement our existing strength in population biology.

We are particularly interested in candidates whose research examines: 1) effects of changing climate, disturbance regimes, and land use on plant communities; 2) biodiversity effects on ecosystem productivity and stability; 3) plant-animal interactions such as trophic cascades or plant community response to herbivory; and/or 4) management for resilience and adaptability of vegetation communities under climate and land use change.

We seek candidates with a strong interest in collaboration, particularly in pressing ecological questions in the Greater Yellowstone region, Intermountain West, Northern Great Plains, and elsewhere. The incumbent will be expected to maintain an excellent program of research and publication with support from national competitive grant programs, provide graduate student support and mentoring, and to maintain strong ties to state and federal natural resource agencies. The Department of Ecology is committed to quality undergraduate and graduate education, and the successful candidate is expected to participate actively in the department curriculum. The teaching assignment will include participation in team-taught organismal biology, an upper division course in plant ecology, 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.

Required Qualifications

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

Preferred Qualifications

1. Strong background and interest in undergraduate and graduate education.
2. Participation in service to the profession.
3. Experience with interdisciplinary, collaborative research and funding.
4. Research experience that addresses both basic ecology and applied problems
5. Ability to effectively mentor a diverse student body, including women and minorities.

Application Procedure


Screening of applications will begin January 15, 2010 and will continue until a suitable candidate is found. To apply, submit: 1) a letter of interest addressing the required and preferred qualifications; 2) a CV; 3) description of research accomplishments and future directions; 4) a statement of teaching experience and interests; 5) copies of up to three

publications and 6) the names and full contact information of three references. Electronic submittal of applications is highly preferred and should include the applicants signature on the letter of application. If submitting electronically, all components (1-6) of the application should be incorporated into a single *.pdf file.

Montana State University is an institution that is committed to cultural diversity and encourages applications from members of underrepresented groups to include women and minority candidates.


Submit materials to:

Plant Community Ecology Search Committee
c/o Judy Van Andel
Montana State University
310 Lewis Hall
P O Box 173460
Bozeman, MT 59717-3460

 406-994-4548

jvanandel@montana.edu

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ADA/EO/AA/VETERAN'S PREFERENCE: In compliance with the Montana Veteran's Employment Preference Act, MSU provides preference in employment to veterans, disabled veterans, and certain eligible relatives of veterans. MSU makes accommodation for any known disability that may interfere with an applicant's ability to compete in the hiring process or an employee's ability to perform the duties of the job. To claim veteran's preference or request accommodation, contact Human Resources/Affirmative Action, Hamilton Hall, MSU, Bozeman MT 59717-2430;  406-994-2042 . MSU's Affirmative Action Non-Discrimination Policy and Procedures are on the Web at www2.montana.edu/policy/affirmative_action/.
