



Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences
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Ph.D. Research Assistantship in Weed Ecology and Agroecology

Description of duties: We are seeking a highly qualified and motivated individual wishing to pursue a Ph.D. in weed ecology and agroecology. The successful candidate will work in a multidisciplinary project assessing the joint impact of conventional and alternative cropping systems including sheep grazing on weed population dynamics and weed communities.

Project Justification: The team's long-term goal is to develop an integrated crop/livestock production system that is economical and environmentally sustainable and provides benefits to both grazing livestock and crop farming systems. This research aims at developing a holistic sheep/crop production farming system that uses sheep to manage crop residues, improve soil fertility, reduce weed and insect pests, increase carbon sequestration, reduce pesticide use, and increase use of low cost weeds and crop residues for fiber and meat production.

Qualification sought: Candidates should have completed their M. S. studies or have equivalent background in Agronomy, Plant Ecology, or Environmental Sciences with experience in conducting research, and an ability to work in a collaborative environment. A strong interest in quantitative methods including experimental design, statistics, and modeling is required. Evidence of demonstrated writing skills from prior research is needed and the ability to multi-task and careful attention to detail is preferred.

Description of duties: The successful candidate will work on an USDA/RAMP funded integrated project awarded to faculty working in animal and range sciences, cropping systems, entomology, agricultural economy, and weed science at Montana State University. The student will conduct field, greenhouse, and lab research, analyze data, present results at regional and national meetings, and prepare peer-reviewed publications.

Salary: \$18,000/year

Contact for additional information:

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Application procedures: Submit 1) letter of interest stating professional goals, research interests, and qualifications, 2) a resume, 3) transcripts and GRE scores (unofficial copies acceptable at present), and 4) the names, affiliations, email addresses, and phone numbers of three references. Electronic applications are accepted.