

Research Technician (2 positions available)

Sage-grouse and nest predators' study, May – August 2020. Two positions are available to conduct field studies on sage-grouse and their nesting and brood habitats, along with measuring a response in sage-grouse nest survival related to a large-scale fence modification project in the Centennial Valley of southwest Montana. Candidate will be expected to work in a remote field setting assisting with the tracking of adult sage-grouse via radio telemetry, surveying potential nest predators (avian and ground), nest and chick monitoring, capturing and collecting biological samples of broods, along with lab work related to GIS, data entry/management, and prepping samples for stable isotope analysis. Knowledge of sagebrush plant identification, proficiency in identifying avian predators, and knowledge of telemetry techniques preferred but not required, along with experience driving and maintaining trucks, ATVs, and trailers. The position will largely focus on nest and brood survival related to sage-grouse nest-site selection and predator density. The candidate must feel comfortable working and making decisions independently while also being comfortable working in a team setting. Candidate must feel comfortable working in grizzly bear habitat. The study area is located on the western portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem; 1.5 hours from the nearest town. Applicant will live in a remote field setting in close quarters with other team members. Housing will consist of a furnished wall tent and/or a camper, where monthly rent is \$100. Pay will be \$1500 per month. Applicants are encouraged to apply quickly. Please contact Aaron O'Harra with questions (see contact below).

This position will require some early morning work and weekend work on occasion. Early morning work comes in the form of sage grouse brood captures and aerial predator point counts. This study collaborates with many different projects taking place throughout the Centennial Valley, exposing the candidate to a variety of different wildlife and land management techniques not specifically involved with sage-grouse. Some examples include impacts of cheatgrass on the dynamics of sagebrush songbird communities, treatment effectiveness of spraying cheatgrass and monitoring, mesic site restoration and monitoring, and invasive weeds management. The Centennial Valley is a unique place to work. It is a working valley, with ranchers, Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and The Nature Conservancy all partnering together for common conservation goals. It is a great place to hone skills already learned and gain many new ones in the realm of wildlife and land management techniques.

To apply, please email cover letter, resume, and references to:

Aaron O'Harra (Biological Scientist, Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and Masters Candidate, Dept. of Animal and Range Sciences, Montana State University)

Email: aoharra5@gmail.com

Phone: (208) 761-6440