

### **Research Technician (1 position available)**

Sage-grouse and habitat study, May – August 2019. One position is available to conduct field studies on sage-grouse and their nesting and brood habitats, along with measuring a response in sage-grouse 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, nest and chick monitoring, capturing and collecting biological samples of broods, vegetation and insect sampling, along with lab work related to GIS, data entry/management, insect sorting, and prepping samples for stable isotope analysis. Knowledge of sagebrush plant identification along with telemetry techniques preferred but not required, along with experience driving and maintaining trucks, ATVs and trailers. The position will largely focus on vegetation and insect sampling related to sage-grouse brood selection and survival. The candidate must feel comfortable working and making decisions independently while also 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, where monthly rent is \$100. Pay will be \$1500 per month. Applicants are encouraged to apply quickly as the position will be filled ASAP. Please contact Aaron O’Harra with questions (see contact below).

This project is a great stepping stone to gaining other positions in the future. This position will help one to gain skills in conservation on one of the highest priority issues of the American west; sagebrush conservation. Through this position there will also be many other projects and skills that one will have the chance to get exposed to. Some examples of that are mesic area restoration(helping facilitate the spreading of water in mesic habitats to try and restore native plant community), cheatgrass monitoring(helping assess management techniques such as spraying to help restore and conserve native songbird populations), conifer treatments(removing conifers encroaching on sagebrush habitat), and other projects run by the Refuge and The Nature Conservancy. Other opportunities one will have would include gaining experience working with ranchers to help with fence maintenance and cooperation, facilities maintenance, experience with weed identification and spraying, and vehicle maintenance and upkeep. There is a multitude of opportunities to help round out one’s skills for becoming a strong candidate for future positions.

The centennial valley is a unique place to work. It is a working valley, with ranchers, the Refuge, and The Nature Conservancy all working together for common goals. It is a great place to hone skills already learned and gain many new ones. Having multiple skills under one’s belt can help to increase one’s chances over other candidates when searching for different positions. This position can also act as a recruitment mechanism for coming back to the centennial on future projects, a strong worker is often welcomed back over someone unknown who isn't familiar with the area.

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)

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