M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship
Wildlife Biology Program, University of Montana

A M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship is available in the Wildlife Biology Program at the University of Montana to study the effects of wildfire on elk forage, demography, and distributions of the Blackfoot-Clearwater elk population in Montana. Large-scale, high intensity wildfires burned over elk summer range during the summer of 2017. This study is intended to evaluate post-fire effects of these wildfires and will focus on elk and vegetation responses to different levels of fire severity. More specifically, the graduate student will assess forage quality, elk distributions via GPS collars, elk body fat, and elk vital rates. The project is highly collaborative with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks biologists and a unique opportunity to work cooperatively with personnel from a state wildlife agency. It is expected the graduate student would be employed as a field technician on the project during summer of 2019 before enrolling in the program in fall of 2019. The position requires a rigorous combination of fieldwork, coursework, statistical analyses, and writing.

Candidates must have a B.S. in wildlife science, biology, or a closely related discipline. Applicants must have relevant field research experience, a strong work ethic, the necessary maturity and ability to work with the public and a diversity of natural resource professionals, and interests in applied research and quantitative techniques. Candidates should have an undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or higher and GRE scores above the 50th percentile.

Please refer to [http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wbio/](http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wbio/) for information about the Wildlife Biology Program at the University of Montana. Before applying formally to the University of Montana Graduate School, applicants should send a cover letter that outlines their qualifications for the project and career goals, resume, copies of transcripts and GRE scores (unofficial at this time are acceptable), and the names and contact information (phone and e-mail address) of 3 references to Joshua Millspaugh. *All of these materials should be sent via e-mail in one PDF document.* Applications are due by February 5, 2019.

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