**Agency:** Montana State University

**Location:** Western MT

**Job Category:** Seasonal Research Technician

**Salary:** $2,400/mo. plus housing

**Schedule:** May 1, 2023 – early August 2023

**Last Date to Apply:** February 8, 2023

**Lab Website:** https://www.wildlifehabitatecologylab.com/

**Overview of the position:**

The Wildlife Habitat Ecology Lab is recruiting 2-4 research technicians to assist with field evaluations of radio telemetry technologies for use in studies of ground-dwelling birds. This project is focused on evaluating the Motus Wildlife Tracking System and associated radio telemetry technologies in comparison to traditional VHF telemetry to assess the potential of using Motus technologies for studying fine-scale space use and habitat selection of translocated sharp-tailed grouse in western Montana. Technician duties will include conducting radio telemetry evaluations of stationary transmitters using handheld devices, assisting with Motus pop-up tower telemetry evaluations, and conducting telemetry of reintroduced sharp-tailed grouse in western Montana. Technicians will be expected to work as a team member. The anticipated start date is May 1, 2023 and the position will be completed no later than early August 2023. Lodging will be provided.

Technicians can expect to be hiking and/or operating an ATV for 10-12 hour days in the field to conduct radio telemetry triangulations. Candidates must be able to spend long days in the field and hike across challenging, off-trail terrain in all weather conditions while maintaining a positive outlook and working effectively in a team. Schedules will likely be 5 days on, 2 days off with a rotating schedule so that a team is in the field every day of the week during the grouse breeding period. Therefore, the 2 days off may not line up with weekend days. Technicians can expect to start work before sunrise during the grouse nesting period. Technicians will be responsible for collecting data in the field and entering data at the end of each day.

Field sites are located within 90 minutes of Missoula, MT – primarily the Blackfoot and Bitterroot Valleys. Field sites are a combination of private land and working ranches, so technicians will be expected to be respectful of property during fieldwork. Field sites are in grizzly habitat and often have limited to no cell service. Technicians will be required to work in pairs for safety reasons. Lodging will be available in a camper trailer or bunkhouse for the duration of the position.

Technicians will gain extensive radio telemetry experience, data management skills, and will become familiar with the Motus Wildlife Network. We are seeking individuals interested in a career in wildlife field research. Individuals from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

* Radio telemetry experience is preferred
* Previous experience with avian studies and nest monitoring
* Ability and willingness to hike daily and work in remote areas with wildlife
* Ability to navigate with GPS and maps to reach off-trail locations
* Excellent organization skills, attention to detail, and experience recording and managing data entry
* Ability to communicate well with private landowners and the public, enthusiasm for field studies, and a strong work ethic
* A valid driver’s license and ability to safely drive a 4WD vehicle
* Ability to operate an ATV

**Start date:** This is a 3-month position. The ideal candidate(s) would begin their field season May 1, 2023 and complete the season no later than early August 2023.

**To apply:** Submit a single PDF labeled as Lastname\_TechApplication.pdf containing 1) a cover letter including a description about your career thus far, why you are interested in this project, and your career goals; 2) a CV or resume; and 3) the name and contact information of 3 references. Applications or questions about the position should be sent to Aubrey Sullivan at aubrey.sullivan@student.montana.edu.

Review of applications will start immediately and will continue until filled.