

Graduate Research Assistantship (M.S.)
Roadside Pollinator Ecology, Ecology Dept., Montana State University

We are recruiting 1 M.S. student to join our labs focusing on a Roadside Pollinator Ecology project in the Snake River Plain of Idaho. This student will participate in an Idaho Transportation Department-funded project investigating plant, bee, and butterfly communities along highways and adjacent right of ways in southern Idaho, with a particular focus on monarch butterflies and milkweed. Research in the Burkle and Debinski labs is focused on community ecology, conservation, species interactions, and especially plant-pollinator interactions. This project is a collaborative endeavor among pollinator ecologists, roadside ecologists, and the Idaho Transportation Department. The graduate student will work as part of a team including faculty, scientists at the Western Transportation Institute, resource managers, and a field technician. The Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) provides a stipend of \$20,000 per year for two years and a tuition waiver for up to 6 credits/semester.

Requirements

- Valid driver's license
- Strong oral and written communications skills
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Attention to detail and safety protocols
- Willingness to camp in the field for multiple 2 week field survey trips per summer

Preferred qualifications

- Previous experience in pollinator-related field work
- Plant, bee, and/or butterfly identification skills
- Demonstrated experience in conducting independent research

This position offers support for a new M.S. student at Montana State University in the Ecology Department who will be co-advised by Drs. Burkle and Debinski. This two year research assistantship will start in January, 2021 with field work occurring in summers of 2021 and 2022.

Interested applicants should apply by filling out this form https://ou.montana.edu/ecology/summary_info.html Under "Area(s) of Interest" please indicate "Roadside Pollinator Ecology." After hitting the "Next" button, you will be directed to a second webpage where you can upload pdf or Word files for your Application Materials. Your Application Materials should include (1) a brief personal statement (no more than one page) detailing your academic background and previous research experience, reasons for pursuing graduate school, your specific current research interests, and how your research interests relate to this project, (2) your CV, (3) informal undergraduate transcripts and GRE scores (if available), and (4) contact information for three references. These Application Materials may be submitted as one combined file or several separate files. Note that you will want to have all documents ready prior to completing the form as you will only be able to submit this information once.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis (open immediately), but no later than Oct. 15, 2020. More information about the Burkle and Debinski labs is available at <http://www.montana.edu/burkle> and <https://www.montana.edu/ecology/directory/faculty/2025152/diane-debinski>