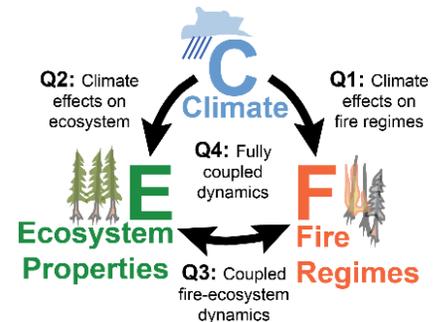


PhD ASSISTANTSHIP AVAILABLE:

Causes and consequences of fire-regime variability in Rocky Mountain forests

Overview: A fully funded, four-year PhD assistantship is available at the University of Montana to join an interdisciplinary research effort studying the causes and consequences of wildfire activity in Rocky Mountain subalpine forests over the past 2500 years. The NSF-funded project combines new techniques for reconstructing the climatic drivers and biogeochemical consequences of wildfire with ecosystem modeling that simulates coupled climate-fire-ecosystem dynamics. Find a project summary here: www.goo.gl/KYLNaw



The successful candidate will undertake field- and lab-based research to reconstruct the pattern, causes, and consequences of wildfires in subalpine forests, focused primarily in western Montana and secondarily in northern Colorado. The student will interact with collaborating faculty and graduate students from the Univ. of Idaho, Univ. of Wyoming, and Kansas State Univ., with expertise in paleoclimatology, ecosystem modeling, and ecosystem science and biogeochemistry. The successful candidate will join the [PaleoEcology and Fire Ecology Lab](#) in the Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences, in the [W. A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation](#). Most students in the Lab pursue graduate degrees through the [Systems Ecology](#) graduate program.

Qualifications:

- Strong academic record, with a BS, BA, or MS (preferred) degree in ecology, biology, Earth sciences, geography, or related field.
- Field work experience in plant or forest ecology, fire ecology, and/or paleoecology; experience working in remote settings is an asset.
- Research experience including experimental design, data analysis/synthesis, statistical modeling, and/or computer programming in Matlab or R; experience in ecological modeling is an asset.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills; publication record in refereed journals is an asset
- Strength working in a collaborative setting, enthusiasm, and curiosity.

To apply: Interested students should contact Dr. Philip Higuera (philip.higuera@umontana.edu). Please include (1) a brief description of your research interests, professional goals, and relevant prior experiences, and (2) a resume or CV that includes your undergraduate/graduate GPA and GRE scores (with percentiles); (3) optional but encouraged: a writing sample from a relevant prior academic experience. After a phone interview and screening, competitive candidates must apply the graduate school at the University of Montana, which has a priority deadline of January 31, 2017. The successful candidate could start as early as June 2017.

The University of Montana is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer.

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