W.A. FRANKE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY & CONSERVATION
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

HUMAN DIMENSIONS LAB
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

2 Research Assistantships available in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

The Human Dimensions Lab in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation at the University of Montana seeks motivated applicants for two Research Assistantship positions. Please see full project and position descriptions below, along with application instructions. Application reviews will begin Dec. 15, 2017 and until a successful candidate is identified. Please apply now.

For more information please see: http://www.cfc.umt.edu/research/humandimensions/projects/current-projects.php

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1 Yr., MS Research Assistantship – Social-Ecological Systems

Project Title: Identifying ecological and social resilience in fire-prone landscapes

Position: The Human Dimensions Lab at the University of Montana seeks motivated applicants for a Joint Fire Science Program funded, one year Research Assistantship focused on understanding social and ecological resilience to wildfires in the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest. The assistantship provides a stipend, and covers graduate school tuition and health insurance. The successful applicant will help conduct a mixed-methods, human dimensions study in communities in the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest, using qualitative interviews and quantitative survey analysis to understand social resilience to wildfires in fire-prone landscapes. Primary research duties will focus on the human dimensions aspects of this project, but the successful applicant will work as part of an interdisciplinary team comprised of social scientists and ecologists from the University of Montana, Montana State University, and U.S. Forest Service's Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute. The student will work within the College of Forestry and Conservation's Human Dimensions Lab and could pursue a graduate degree through the Resource Conservation or System Ecology graduate program.

Project description: Land managers in the western US are faced with the daunting challenge of managing wildland fire in an increasingly fire-prone world. The challenges presented by climate change overlay significant complexity of increasing population densities on private land in the wildland-urban interface and the increasing use and value of public lands for tourism and recreation. A principal goal of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) is to, "restore and maintain resilient landscapes," which must be considered from both ecological and human perspectives. While the concept of *ecological* resilience is relatively well understood, definitions of *social* resilience are poorly developed, and we know little about how management actions could support coupled ecological and social resilience. Through two workshops and a mixed-methods study of recently fire-affected communities, we seek a refined definition of resilience compatible with the Cohesive Strategy's goals of promoting fire-adapted communities and restoring and maintaining landscapes resilient to fire. For more information, please contact Dr. Alexander L. Metcalf (alex.metcalf@umontana.edu) directly.

Qualifications: Applicants should have a BS in a natural-resource or social-science related field, and a strong interest in the human dimensions and ecology of wildland fire. Applicants must have well-developed communication, writing, and quantitative skills, a strong work ethic, and a desire to work with researchers, community members, and fire managers.

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