

SMART Fires PhD Graduate Assistantship

The Human Dimensions Lab at University of Montana is seeking qualified candidates committed to pursuing a PhD in the Department of Society and Conservation. The successful applicant will assist Dr. Elizabeth Covelli Metcalf with a multi-year NSF funded study focused on the human dimensions of prescribed fire in Montana (<https://www.mtnsfepscor.org/>). The successful applicant will engage with the larger multi-disciplinary, cross campus project team, learning from scientists in the fields of conservation social science, computer science, forestry & wildland fire, and optical engineering. The project focus and tasks are largely defined; however, the successful candidate will have latitude to develop their own research questions for their dissertation and will work directly with Dr. Metcalf to achieve their academic and career goals.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct literature reviews, design interviews guides and survey questions, collect and analyze data, and disseminate findings to academic and non-academic audiences
- Participate in SMART Fires annual meetings, trainings, and project evaluation
- Work independently and create own research ideas
- Occasionally support undergraduate teaching (e.g., grading, lab/field support) through TA

Support: In year 1 the position will be a combination of research assistantship and teaching assistantship funded at 9-months at 20-hours per week, with the option of summer support. The position includes a competitive stipend, tuition, health insurance benefits, and funding for conference travel. The assistantship is funded annually, renewable each year based on satisfactory progress. The successful candidate can expect up to 4 years of funding.

Qualifications: Potential candidates for this position must meet admission standards and be accepted into the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation doctoral program. Candidate must have a completed Master of Science degree (or equivalent) prior to starting. Strong recommendations are required. Candidate must demonstrate a commitment to rigorous social science with a deep understanding of qualitative and quantitative methods. Candidate must be familiar with project management and have excellent communications skills. Experience with wildland or prescribed fire is recommended.

Application procedure: Fill out UM Graduate School application which includes a statement of interest; resume/CV; email addresses for 3 references; unofficial transcripts. Additionally, please reach out to Dr. Metcalf once your application is complete. More information on procedures: <https://www.umt.edu/environment/grad/phd-forestry/apply.php>. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Dr. Metcalf- elizabeth.metcalf@umontana.edu

