

**Graduate Research Assistantship for M.A. in Economics or M.S. in Systems Ecology
at the University of Montana**

A masters-level Graduate Research Assistantship is available for an outstanding candidate to research the effects of alternative forest management practices on subsequent fire suppression expenditures. Position starts as early as June 1, 2015 and no later than August 15, 2015. Tuition waiver and research assistant stipend will be provided for a two-year period. The successful applicant has the option to pursue either an M.A. in Economics within the College of Humanities and Sciences or an M.S. in Systems Ecology, an interdisciplinary degree offered jointly through the College of Forestry and Conservation and the College of Humanities and Sciences.

Empirical investigations into the effects of fuels treatments and previous fires on subsequent fire suppression expenditures are needed. Such information can help public land management agencies as they seek to find economically efficient solutions to reduce wildfire risk while simultaneously creating landscape conditions that facilitate the use of natural fire to improve ecosystem health. The project's goal is to develop spatial econometric models of fire suppression expenditures for individual fires using geospatial and ancillary data. These models will be used to evaluate and compare the effects of fuels treatments and previous fires on subsequent fire suppression expenditures. The successful applicant will assist in data collection, model development and interpretation, and preparation of peer-reviewed publications.

A bachelor's degree in economics or evidence of substantial econometrics knowledge and skills is required. Previous experience with geographic information systems (GIS) and statistical programs (e.g. Stata, R, Matlab) is highly desirable. Candidates must possess an excellent academic record, strong references and demonstrated writing and communication skills. Education or experience directly relevant to the project described above would be nice. Individuals interested in spatial statistics, geospatial analysis, applied econometrics, and natural resource management are encouraged to apply.

To apply, send (1) a cover letter that describes your interest in this project; (2) resume or CV; (3) GRE scores; (4) academic transcripts; (5) a writing sample and (6) contact information for three references. Evaluation of candidates will begin March 15, 2014. Please direct questions about this opportunity to Helen Naughton, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Montana; helen.naughton@umontana.edu; phone +1 406-243-4586.