

## **2 Graduate Research Assistantships**

(2 Ph.D or 1 Ph.D. and 1 M.S.)

**Project Title:** Fire-grazing interaction: Restoring heterogeneity to grassland ecosystems

**Project Description:** This study will evaluate the application of the fire-grazing interaction to promote heterogeneity in mixed grass prairie and sand sagebrush communities in western Oklahoma. Objectives of the study are to determine effects of patch fires and grazing on vegetation composition and other habitat parameters of these communities and determine responses of grassland birds, invertebrates, and biodiversity in general to this management practice. Research will focus on the Cooper Wildlife Management Area in western Oklahoma, but other sites may also be used. Two graduate assistantships (2 Ph.D. or 1 Ph.D. and 1 M.S.) are available for this study and they will focus on 1) the response of grassland birds to heterogeneity at multiple spatial scales, 2) the role of heterogeneity in plant and invertebrate diversity and composition across multiple scales, and 3) a systems perspective of the role of heterogeneity in ecosystem processes. These positions will be in Rangeland Ecology and Management and/or Department of Zoology at Oklahoma State University. Anticipated start date for positions is January 1, 2006. Send letter of interest, resume, GRE scores, transcripts, and names and contact information for 3 references to:

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