



SageSTEP

Sagebrush Steppe Treatment Evaluation Project

Graduate Research Assistantships, Restoration Ecology

*Department of Forest, Range & Wildlife Sciences and the Ecology Center,
College of Natural Resources
Utah State University*

As part of a multi-institution, multi-state, multi-disciplinary sagebrush restoration/fuels management research project I am seeking a Ph.D. Graduate Research Assistant to begin in summer 2006. In addition, there may be another M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship for a highly-qualified candidate.

In collaboration with University of Nevada–Reno, Oregon State University, University of Idaho, Brigham Young University, USDA Forest Service, USDA Agricultural Research Service, USDA Bureau of Land Management, and USGS Forest & Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, we are conducting a region-wide study on fuels management and restoration of Great Basin Wyoming big sagebrush–bunchgrass ecosystems threatened with conversion to cheatgrass-degraded systems. The overall project integrates plant ecology, fire science, wildlife biology, soil science, hydrology, economics, and social sciences, and includes a strong outreach component. See (<http://www.sagestep.org/>) for more details. Successful candidates will conduct ecological research relevant to plant responses to vegetation treatments. Areas of particular research interest include, but are not limited to, studies of the role of seed banks in vegetation responses, seed bed conditions and seedling establishment, and studies complementing on-going research on the role of rodents and ants in vegetation dynamics.

Ph.D. applicants should have an M.S. or equivalent in Ecology, Biology, Natural Resources, or a similar field. Ph.D. applicants should apply for University admission through the USU School of Graduate Studies (<http://www.usu.edu/gradsch/>) and for a USU College of Natural Resources S. J. & Jesse E. Quinney Ph.D. Fellowship (<http://www.cnr.usu.edu/files/GraduateFellowshipBrochure2006.pdf>) . Applications must be complete by 1 February, 2006. Potential M.S. students at this point need only contact me directly

Please contact **Gene Schupp** (schupp@cc.usu.edu; 435-797-2475) for further information.