Master's Graduate Assistantships (2) – Fire Ecology and Management
Department of Forestry, Fire, and Rangeland Management, Cal Poly Humboldt

Dr. Jeff Kane (https://fwr.humboldt.edu/people/jeffrey-kane) is seeking two (2) highly motivated students interested in joining the Cal Poly Humboldt Fire Lab (https://firelab.humboldt.edu/) to pursue an MS degree in Forestry, Watershed, and Wildland Sciences at Cal Poly Humboldt (http://humboldt.edu/fwr/program/graduate_degrees).

Post-fire Redwood Study (1): This project is supported by a National Park Service grant to characterize fuels following restoration thinning treatments in secondary coast redwood forests in Redwood National Park and examine changes in surface fuels, tree mortality, and recruitment before and after the 2023 Lost Fire.

Baker Cypress Restoration Study (1): This project is supported by the USDA Forest Service and will focus on post-fire restoration in Baker cypress forests. This project will involve leading crews to collect seed and monitor populations that have burned in wildfires over the last couple of decades to examine post-fire stand structure and seedling response to inform restoration and management plans for Baker cypress.

The selected students must be able to work well independently and in a team setting, assist with other on-going projects, and be willing to travel to regional field sites in northern California/southern Oregon. Successful candidates must reside in or near Arcata, California over the duration of the assistantship.

Required Qualifications:

Strong candidates for admission to the Cal Poly Humboldt Department of Forestry, Watershed, and Wildland Science Graduate Program should have a grade point average of 3.0 or greater on a 4.0 scale for all college and university work. There is some flexibility if the candidate has a strong experiential background associated with fire science, fire ecology, or a related field. Minimum qualifications include a BS degree completed no later than June 2024 in Forestry, Forest Ecology, Ecology, or related fields. Additional required qualifications include:

- Valid driver's license and ability to complete defensive driver training
- Previous coursework or experience in Forestry, Ecology or a related field
- Ability to navigate off-trail using paper maps and GPS
- Ability or willingness to learn forest and fuels sampling techniques
- Willingness to learn coding and statistical analysis in R

- Ability to read and synthesize scientific information
- Well organized and detail-oriented
- Strong written and oral communication skills

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience collecting and analyzing fuels and forest data
- Experience with technical or scientific writing
- Experience in conducting statistical analyses in R or similar platform

Position Duties:

- Lead field data and sample collection and data management efforts
- Coordinate field logistics and supervise field assistants
- Synthesize existing literature related to research topic
- Process and analyze data to address research objectives
- Write publication quality thesis and associated management briefs
- Present research as poster or oral presentation
- Assist with other projects and efforts, as needed

Assistantship Benefits:

MS student will be hired as a full-time graduate assistant beginning in mid-May/early June 2024 at $20,000/yr. Funding duration is for two years. Tuition and medical insurance are not included as part of the assistantship.

How to Apply:

Successful applicants would begin in summer 2024 and enroll in graduate school during the fall semester of 2024. Applications due: ***February 15th***. To apply, send the following (as a single PDF document, if possible) to Dr. Jeff Kane (jkane@humboldt.edu):

1. A letter of interest (clearly stating your background, positions you are applying for, and research/career interests).
2. CV (including GPA, prior relevant work experience).
3. Unofficial transcripts
4. A writing sample that demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely
5. The names and contact information for three academic and/or professional references

Notes: Applicants need not apply to the Cal Poly Humboldt Graduate Studies Program for consideration. The selected candidate will be asked to apply to the program once the application review process is completed.