

Job opportunity: Research Assistant on Grassland Ecosystem Services and Climate Resilience, Archbold Biological Station

Application Due: Jan 31, 2024

Starting Date: Early 2024

Position: Full-time research research assistant. 12-month appointment renewed annually based on performance. Competitive salary with full benefits.

Offered by: Archbold Biological Station, <https://www.archbold-station.org/>

Where: Archbold Biological Station's Buck Island Ranch (Lake Placid, FL); www.archbold-station.org

Key words: Ecology, Ecological monitoring, Water quality, Instrumentation

DESCRIPTION

Archbold Biological Station's Buck Island Ranch (BIR) seeks a full-time research assistant to work on a project that will address how land management and grazing regime interact to affect grassland ecosystem services under future precipitation scenarios. The RA will also assist with other agroecology projects that focus on sustainability.

The research will be conducted at BIR, a biological station that operates as full-scale working cattle ranch providing a unique platform for long-term agroecology research. BIR is one of the 18 Long-term Agroecosystem Research sites <https://ltar.ars.usda.gov/>

.The successful candidate will be supervised by Dr. Elizabeth Boughton.

Main Responsibilities: The research assistant will assist with the maintenance of several rainout shelters and collect data on aboveground net primary productivity (ANPP), forage nutritive value, soil greenhouse gas emissions, and plant species traits and composition in response to precipitation and grazing treatments. ANPP will be measured using the moveable enclosure method. Lab work will include weighing and drying biomass, grinding biomass and preparing samples for tissue analysis. The research assistant may also assist with measurements of belowground processes (root biomass, decomposition, net N mineralization/nitrification). The research assistant will assist with the set up of an automated rainfall manipulation system (Gherardi and Sala 2013) and shelters will be removable to allow cattle grazing. The RA will maintain the rainfall shelters and ensure functionality – these include solar panels, batteries and float switches. The RA will work with ranch operation staff to manage the implementation of the grazing intensity treatments (low, and high)

The position

This is a non-tenured, full time, 12-month position, and can be renewed annually, contingent on performance and the availability of funds. Duties may change as contract or grant turnover occurs. Competitive salary with full benefits.

Required qualifications

A bachelor's degree in biology, environmental science, chemistry, or related field; basic computer skills (MS Word, Excel).

Preferred qualifications

Preferred qualifications: experience in field ecology research preferably plant related; experience working on ranches or farms; experience working with environmental monitoring equipment (solar panels, batteries, soil moisture probes, etc). Some experience with building or carpentry or willingness to learn. Experienced team leader and good written and oral communication skills. Demonstrated problem solver.

The station

The position is located at BIR, a 10,500-acre cattle ranch near Lake Placid, FL, with shared housing available on site. Here are two documentaries about Archbold's Buck Island Ranch: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6_WhY3aZB0 , https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGV_G6dnYHg)

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should send

- 1) a letter of application,
- 2) a resume or CV with relevant coursework and experience, and
- 3) names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for three references

Please put RA for climate resilience in the email subject line.

To: Dr. Elizabeth Boughton, eboughton@archbold-station.org.

Application deadline is **Jan 31, 2024**. The position will remain opened until filled.

Contact Dr. Boughton via e-mail for more information.

Candidates must be eligible to work in the United States.

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