

Job opportunity: RESEARCH ASSISTANT in long-term agroecosystem research at Archbold Biological Station's Buck Island Ranch

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 contribute to research on the sustainability of grazing lands.

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.

The research assistant will work on a variety of projects that collect data on the ecology of a working cattle ranch. Key objectives are to: (1) Collect data to characterize aboveground net primary productivity (ANPP) and the impact of innovative management regimes on ANPP; (2) Monitor long-term water quality on Buck Island Ranch and the impact of innovative management regimes on water quality; (3) assist in BIR's small wet chemistry lab (4) assist in maintaining environmental sensors and instrumentation.

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.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to learn basic ecological skills and gain experience in a wide range of research techniques and equipment, both in the field and in the laboratory, and data compilation, processing and analysis depending on experience. Field work includes soil, water and biomass (plant), and plant species composition samplings. In the lab, the research assistant will be expected to assist with

management of BIR's small wet chemistry lab and manage all lab analyses of soil, water and biomass sample processing. BIR's chemistry lab is a basic lab with the capability of running tests such as pH, organic matter (loss-on-ignition), total phosphorus, ortho-phosphorus, ammonium, and nitrate. The research assistant will also be responsible for maintaining water sampling equipment such as the YSI. The successful candidate will train and supervise research interns that assist with field and lab work.

Required qualifications

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

Preferred qualifications

Research experience in the field and in the laboratory related to soil and water sampling; experience working on farms and with farmers; experience working in subtropical grasslands and/or wetlands. Demonstrated knowledge of experience working in a chemistry lab is preferred

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

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

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

Please put RA for Water Quality in the subject line

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

Candidates must be eligible to work in the United States.

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