A full-time research assistant position is available in the Applied Forest Ecology lab of Dr. Steve Chhin (www.msu.edu/~chhin) in the Department of Forestry (www.for.msu.edu) at Michigan State University (MSU) (www.msu.edu).

Background: The research assistant will primarily help complete field and laboratory work for a forest restoration project conducted in the mixed-conifer forest of the Sierra Nevada region of California. The general objective of the project is to determine the effective intensity of mechanical thinning treatments to remove shade tolerant competitors and thereby promote the productivity and health of the remaining trees. Prior to treatment application, dendrochronological analyses will be conducted to reconstruct historical forest stand dynamics which will also be related to the impact of past climate and disturbances. Post-treatment responses in physiological variables, micro-environmental variables, and growth and stand development will also be examined. Field work will be conducted in California while lab work will be completed at MSU. The research technician will also provide assistance on other projects in the Chhin lab. This position will be initially for a 1 year period (starting in June 2014) with the possibility of extension based on satisfactory performance. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Qualifications: Applicants should preferably have completed a BS in forestry, biology, ecology, environmental sciences, or a similarly related natural resource field. Preference will be given to applicants that are highly self-motivated, possess a strong work ethic, and have strong communication skills. A background or strong interest in conducting field based research and working in a laboratory environment is desirable. Applicants must enjoy working and living outdoors (e.g., camping) and possess a valid driver’s license. A cumulative GPA greater than 3.0 in undergraduate coursework is preferred.

Application materials: Please submit a cover letter, resume (include GPA), and contact information of at least two references. Please describe your career goals in the cover letter. Applications will be considered immediately and continue until the position is filled. To ensure full consideration please submit material by April 1, 2014. Please e-mail all application material to Dr. Steve Chhin (chhin@msu.edu).

For further information, please contact: Dr. Steve Chhin, Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry, Michigan State University, Natural Resources Building, 480 Wilson Road, Room 126, East Lansing, MI 48824

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