

Postdoctoral Scholar
Grassland Restoration and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Summary: The Oregon State University (OSU) College of Forestry (CoF) is pleased to announce a postdoctoral scholar position to conduct and help manage research on grassland restoration and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) on the Northern Great Plains of Montana. The postdoctoral scholar will be part of a cross-cultural research team in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society within the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Lab (<https://tek.forestry.oregonstate.edu/home>). The postdoctoral scholar will work on the *BLM/Fort Belknap Indian Community Grassland Restoration Project*, and will be supervised directly by project PI, CoF Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence and Director of Tribal Initiatives Cristina Eisenberg (<https://directory.forestry.oregonstate.edu/people/eisenberg-cristina>). This position begins on March 1, 2023, or earlier, and is a fully-funded 12-month, three-year appointment. Salary is commensurate with experience. The postdoctoral scholar will have an office in the TEK lab in the CoF Indigenous Natural Resource Office.

Now in its fifth year and funded through 2027, the *BLM/Fort Belknap Indian Community Grassland Restoration Project* takes place on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation and on surrounding BLM lands. The project is part of the BLM Native Plant Conservation and Restoration Program, and uses Seeds of Success protocols (<https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/native-plant-communities/native-plant-and-seed-material-development/collection>). The postdoctoral scholar will conduct research on the effects of traditional fire stewardship practices on grassland ecology, including soil biochemistry (relative abundance of PyC, microbial biomass, basal respiration, bacterial and fungal relative abundance, and enzyme activities associated with soil C and nutrient cycling), plant community composition and function, pollinator presence and diversity using eDNA, will lead data collection using BLM Assessment, Inventorying, and Management (AIM) plots, and collection of the seeds of native plants for restoration. The postdoctoral scholar will help create an ecocultural restoration plan for BLM and FBIC.

About the TEK Lab: Our goal is to create sustainable and resilient natural systems in which people engage with the Earth with reciprocity. Indigenous peoples have stewarded natural resources for millennia through their knowledge and traditional practices. The TEK Lab explores, facilitates, and honors the synergies between TEK, Western science, and other ways of knowing. By creating partnerships with Tribal Nations that honor sovereignty rights and nation-to-nation relationships, we are helping decolonize and re-Indigenize the practice of science and advance holistic, systems-based thinking. By braiding together multiple ways of knowing, we help empower Tribal Nations to make meaning, and create opportunities for Tribal youth in higher education to find solutions to some of humanity's most pressing conservation challenges.

Qualifications:

We seek an applicant with a high level of enthusiasm for field and lab research that contributes to understanding grassland ecology, soil ecology, pollinator and native plant conservation, the role of TEK and cultural fire stewardship in supporting grassland ecosystems. A successful applicant will be expected to work independently as well as collaboratively as a member of a research group that includes first generation Native American students, conduct fieldwork in remote locations, help lead a mostly Native American field crew with caring and kindness, perform detailed laboratory analyses with a high level of precision, perform statistical analyses and geospatial analyses, help with Federal reporting, and publish research findings.

Minimum Qualifications:

- A PhD in botany, ethnobotany, soil science, ecological restoration, or related field.
- Strong communication skills (verbal and written)
- Experience in report-writing or drafting research articles
- Strong peer reviewed-publication history
- Experience in leading field crews
- Ability to lift and carry 40 lbs.
- Ability to work in remote sites, on rough terrain, in heat
- Experience managing data in the field and in the lab
- Experience in conducting statistical analyses
- Experience in geospatial analysis and mapping
- Experience handling and managing lab specimens (eDNA and soil samples)
- A self-motivated, well-organized, adaptive to collaborative work
- Commitment to Diversity Equity and Inclusion and advancing Tribal relations

Preference will be given to applicants with:

- Experience working respectfully in Native American communities with Indigenous people
- Experience working in rural communities
- Familiarity with TEK
- Cultural humility

How to Apply:

If interested, please apply to Associate Dean Cristina Eisenberg:
cristina.eisenberg@oregonstate.edu.

Please provide the following as part of your application:

- Letter of intent that describes why you are qualified for this position, what you can contribute to our project and the TEK lab, and what you hope to gain as a postdoctoral scholar working in this position.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two peer-reviewed publications

- Three references

Further information is at this link: <https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/postdocs/appointment-and-recruitment>

For full consideration, please apply by January 31, 2023.