Postdoctoral Scholar Position in Native Bee Ecology

A Postdoctoral Scholar position to study native bee ecology in grasslands and riparian areas is available at Oregon State University through the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. The full-time (1.0 FTE) position is located in eastern Oregon at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center. The project focuses on the effects of non-native annual grasses, ungulate grazing (including cattle, deer, and elk), and fire on native bee communities in the Zumwalt Prairie and in riparian areas in the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon, primarily within the USFS Starkey Experimental Forest & Range (Starkey). The successful applicant will work under Dr. Sandra DeBano, with additional collaboration with plant ecologists and USFS wildlife biologists, among others. Two years of funding are currently available, but the postdoctoral researcher will be hired on an annual basis and extended pending appropriate progress and continued funding.

The Zumwalt Prairie project will be conducted on The Nature Conservancy’s 13,269 ha Zumwalt Prairie Preserve (ZPP) in northeastern Oregon. The ZPP is the largest remnant of Pacific Northwest Bunchgrass Prairie in the world, which historically covered over 8 million hectares. Dominated by native perennial bunchgrass species including Festuca idahoensis, Psuedoroegnaria spicata, and Poa secunda, the ZPP has over 200 species of native bees and over 100 species of native forbs. The collaborating team has over 10 years of experience with native bees and flowering plants at the ZPP, as well as data on soils, vegetation, weather, and other variables.

Starkey has served as a long-term research site on a variety of management topics since its establishment in 1940. The native bee research at Starkey began in 2014, and is one component of a multi-disciplinary research project exploring interactions of riparian restoration and ungulate grazing on a variety of responses. With over 180 bee species and 120 flowering forbs documented so far, the system offers a unique opportunity to explore effects of ungulate grazing and riparian restoration on pollinators and the plants that support them.

The position requires a combination of expertise in project management, fieldwork, data management and analysis, and publication preparation. The successful candidate will be conducting fieldwork, supervising graduate and undergraduate students in the field and laboratory, interacting and coordinating projects with collaborators, and working with large, long-term datasets.

Required qualifications: PhD in biology, ecology, entomology or related field (attained within the last three years) and research experience with native bees and flowering plants. The candidate must have experience conducting and supervising fieldwork, sampling native bees, and designing, implementing, and analyzing field experiments. A demonstrated record of research productivity is expected. Desired qualifications: Experience in native bee identification, plant identification, molecular ecology techniques, quantitative methods, geographic information systems, and/or soils is desirable. Interested candidates should send an e-mail to sandy.debano@oregonstate.edu with 1) a cover letter describing their experiences,
how they meet the required and desired qualifications, and potential research interests/career goals, 2) a current CV, 3) reprints of any relevant publications, and 4) names/contact information of three references. Please indicate your availability in the cover letter. The project begins in April 2018; applications will be reviewed as they are received.