

## MS assistantship in restoration ecology at Utah State University

Restoration of native bunchgrasses in sagebrush-dominated rangelands is a key strategy for stabilizing soils, curbing invasion by undesirable species, and providing livestock forage and wildlife habitat. Selecting the appropriate plant materials is necessary to ensure restoration success in the face of disturbances such as drought and annual grass invasion. The MS student will work on a project aimed at wildland-testing performance of a broad array of bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) materials across a range of climates, soils, and biotic conditions. This project will test how phenotypic plasticity of key plant traits contribute to seedling establishment and survival. The MS student will be housed in the [Dept. of Wildland Resources](#) at USU. The student will be co-advised by [Dr. Kari E. Veblen](#) (USU) and [Dr. Tom Monaco](#) (USDA-ARS). The student will assist in all aspects of project management and may have the opportunity to develop their own research questions related to the overall project objectives. Field sites will be located on sagebrush rangelands in northern UT.

**Desired start date:** between June and August 2021. **Minimum qualifications:** Degree in biology, ecology, rangeland ecology, or related field. Ability to work in remote field conditions, independent field research experience, excellent written communication skills, and at least minimum qualifications for admission to USU's [MS program in Ecology](#). Applicants should email the following materials, **as a single pdf file**, with the subject line "Bluebunch MS Assistantship" to [kari.veblen@usu.edu](mailto:kari.veblen@usu.edu): (a) one-page cover letter describing relevant experience, interests, and professional goals, (b) CV, (c) scientific writing sample (an academic paper or report written primarily by the applicant), and (d) contact information for three professional references. Review of applications will begin Nov. 9 and continue until position is filled. We particularly welcome applications from **under-represented groups**, including (but not limited to) Native/African/Latinx Americans, LGBTQ+, women, and first-generation college students.

[Utah State University](#) is a Research I land-grant institution with 42 departments, 8 academic colleges, and diverse research programs. The main campus is located in [Logan](#), 85 miles north of Salt Lake City in scenic Cache Valley, a semi-rural mountain basin with nearby ski resorts, lakes, rivers, and mountains providing many recreational opportunities. The area has a low cost of living and provides a high quality of life.