M.S. Assistantship: Grassland Restoration/Soil Health

Agency: Texas Tech University

Location: Lubbock, TX

Job Category: Graduate Assistantship

Benefits: $1,500 per month/12 months/2 years

Start Date: September 2021 or January 2022

Description: The Cooper-Norris Rangeland Ecophysiology Laboratory in the Department of Natural Resources Management at Texas Tech University is seeking a Master of Science student to perform research evaluating range and CRP seeding and management practices in the Texas High Plains. Research will involve the use of novel cover and companion crops, alternative seeding rates, and assessing the relationships between cover/companion crops and native range mixes with seed zone conditions, soil nutrients, soil microbiota, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Application: To apply, submit PDF files including a cover letter stating your interest in the position, a resume/curriculum vitae, a copy (unofficial) of your B.S. transcript, GRE scores (unofficial accepted at this stage), contact information for three references, and a writing sample to the contact below. Applicants interested in starting in September 2021 must send their materials to the contact below by June 1, 2021. Applicants interested in starting in January 2022 must send in their materials by November 1, 2021.

Qualifications: The position requires a B.S. in rangeland ecology and/or management, natural resource management, ecosystem sciences, agronomy, ecology, biology, or another closely related field. The successful applicant will have an excellent work ethic, ability to work independently and collaboratively, demonstrated ability to conduct field research, leadership or management experience, and strong quantitative and writing skills. The student should have a strong interest in and appreciation for project management, research, and public outreach. Preferred academic qualifications include a GRE score of at least 300 combined for the quantitative and verbal sections, and a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.2. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Graduate School at Texas Tech University has waived GRE test score requirements for all graduate programs for Summer and Fall 2021. The GRE requirement will be reinstated for Spring 2022.

Expectations: The candidate is expected to complete a M.S. at Texas Tech University within 24 months of the start date. The candidate is expected to produce and successfully defend a thesis and submit a manuscript to a refereed journal prior to graduation. The student will be part of a collaborative research team.

Contact Person: Dr. Caitlyn Cooper-Norris (caitlyn.e.cooper@ttu.edu)