



Postdoctoral Researcher – Quantitative Social Science

Position Description

The W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation at the University of Montana seeks applicants for a 12-month postdoctoral research associate position renewable for multiple years. The postdoc will work directly with Assistant Professor of Water Policy & Governance [Brian Chaffin](#) in the Department of Society & Conservation on a NSF EPSCoR-funded research project titled “[Resilience Informatics for the Convergence of Critical Capacities to Address Regional-scale Environmental Change](#).” This research leverages large-scale spatial data to better understand and respond to landscape-scale social-ecological transitions in near real-time. Utilizing this technological capacity, the team hopes to better understand how individuals (e.g. landowners, land managers, conservation professionals) across rural, working landscapes in the American West engage in pressing conservation challenges through the adoption (or not) of new technology, and the use of social networks for sharing and receiving information on conservation and land management.

The successful applicant will engage as a critical member of the social science team, working to compliment the big data approaches of the biophysical science team through: the collection of large, publicly-available social datasets for analysis of spatial patterns and temporal trends; and social network analyses (SNA) of nested case studies in Montana and Nebraska aimed at better understanding local conservation practices and decision-making. The successful candidate will have: (1) strong theoretical foundations in a social science discipline including but not limited to geography, anthropology, sociology, or interdisciplinary conservation or environmental social sciences; (2) familiarity with complexity thinking and social-ecological resilience concepts; and (3) proficiency with quantitative social data analysis tools in coding environments such as R, Python, MatLab, etc. The postdoctoral associate will have the opportunity to develop and teach seminars for PhD and MS-level graduate students in quantitative social science methods, and to engage in an integrative, interdisciplinary conservation social science curriculum that includes a wide range of methodological and theoretical training including ethics and policy sciences. In addition, the postdoc will collaborate and coordinate weekly with postdoctoral associates and other team members at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, serving as a link between project partners and research nodes. The postdoctoral associate will be encouraged and funded to pursue external training in research tools and analysis skills such as social network analysis and text analysis via machine learning, and will receive training and mentorship in interdisciplinary, team-based, social-ecological research.

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Position Details

- The salary for this postdoctoral research associate is \$55,000/year including health insurance.
- Position is full-time, 1.0 FTE, Letter of Appointment, and includes a comprehensive and competitive benefits package including insurance, mandatory retirement plan, partial tuition waiver, and wellness program.
 - The 12-month appointment is renewable for up to three additional years contingent on performance and funding.
- The position will be located in Missoula, MT at the University of Montana main campus.
 - Some travel will be required: to field sites within Montana and in Nebraska; to the University of Nebraska; to conferences, meetings, trainings, and professional development opportunities within the U.S. and abroad.
- Start date January 2020.

Qualifications

- PhD in quantitative social, biophysical, and/or spatial sciences, and a strong interest or experience working in conservation social science.
 - ABD applicants will be considered, but confirmation of PhD is required prior to start.
 - Applicants with diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.
- Applicants must be able to clearly communicate complex ideas in writing and be willing to learn in a fast-paced, self-directed environment.
- Evidence of publishing in academic journals is required.

Preferred Qualifications

- Mastery of quantitative data analysis packages such as R or Python, and proficiency with ArcGIS (or open-source GIS software) is preferable.

About Missoula and the University of Montana: The University of Montana is one of the nation's outstanding public universities, committed to liberal arts education, research, and strong professional programs. It is located in Missoula, a cosmopolitan Rocky Mountain community, often singled out in national publications for its quality of life. The vibrant downtown community embraces the state's most sophisticated music and art scene. Missoula is set right in the middle of the mountains and the rivers of western Montana: great hiking, paddling, biking, downhill and cross-country skiing, and rock climbing opportunities are all just minutes away. Surrounding public forests provide unparalleled recreational opportunities. Nearby, Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park complement a thriving intellectual atmosphere. *Outside* magazine has ranked Missoula as one of the "[25 Best Towns](#)," "[Greatest Places to Live in America](#)," and one of "[The 5 Best Places to Raise Outdoor Kids](#)"; livability.com lists Missoula as one of the "[Best College Towns](#)," and SmartAsset.com rated Missoula as the #1 "[Most Fitness-Friendly Place](#)" and #9 "[Least-Stressed Cities in America](#)."

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UM is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and has a strong institutional commitment to the principle of diversity in all areas. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of qualified people who would assist the University in demonstrating its five [priorities for action](#): place student success at the center of all we do; drive excellence and innovation in teaching, learning, and research; embody the principle of “mission first, people always”; partner with place; and proudly tell the UM story.

Criminal Background Investigation is required prior to Offer of Employment.

In accordance with University policy, finalists for this position will be subject to criminal background investigations.

ADA/EOE/AA/Veteran's Preference.

Reasonable accommodations are provided in the hiring process for persons with disabilities. For example, this material is available in alternative format upon request. As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, we encourage applications from minorities, veterans, and women. Qualified candidates may request veterans’ or disabilities preference in accordance with state law.

References *References not listed on the application materials may be contacted; notice may be provided to the applicant.

Testing Individual hiring departments at UM may elect to administer pre-employment tests, which are relevant to essential job functions.

Employment Eligibility. All New Employees must be eligible and show employment eligibility verification by the first date of employment at UM, as legally required (e.g., Form I-9).

[APPLY HERE](#)

Application CLOSES: DECEMBER 11th, 2019

Please submit the following application materials via "New Resume/CV" button below.

**Please note: only five (5) attachments are allowed per application. Please combine documents accordingly.*

- **Cover letter** – including a well-articulated statement of previous research, career goals, current and future research interests, and relevant experiences
- **Detailed CV** – including all publications
- **A writing sample in English** – preferably a published, peer-reviewed journal article
- **Three (3) professional references** – names and contact information

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Funded PhD Research Assistantship – Social Science

Position Description: Dr. [Brian Chaffin](#) and Dr. [Alexander Metcalf](#) (Society & Conservation) and Dr. [Theresa Floyd](#) (Management & Marketing) at the University of Montana seek applicants for an exciting opportunity to pursue a PhD while engaging cutting edge quantitative social science methods to address pressing conservation challenges in the American West and beyond. The successful candidate will join a multi-institutional (U. Montana, U. Nebraska-Lincoln), transdisciplinary team of social and biophysical scientists collaborating on a NSF EPSCoR-funded research project titled “[Resilience Informatics for the Convergence of Critical Capacities to Address Regional-scale Environmental Change](#).” This research leverages large-scale spatial data to better understand landscape-scale social-ecological transitions in near real-time. The successful applicant will engage as a member of the social science team working on a wide range of research objectives, including: (1) analysis of spatial patterns in large-scale social data; (2) social network analyses of nested case studies in Montana and Nebraska aimed at better understanding local conservation practices and decision-making; and (3) advancement of microtargeting research to enhance conservation initiatives and technology adoption toward conservation-oriented land management. The PhD student will have significant flexibility within this project to pursue dissertation research leveraging diverse methodological approaches such as quasi-field experiments, microtargeting, delivery of in-person conservation workshops, and/or ethnography. This research assistantship provides a stipend for three years (12-month/year) including tuition, as well as opportunities to engage in extended field work, professional trainings, and mentorship in interdisciplinary, team-based, social-ecological research.

Desired Qualifications: The ideal candidate will have a strong academic background (BS or MS) in quantitative social, biophysical, and/or spatial sciences, and interest or experience working in conservation social science. M.S. or previous graduate degree preferred, but not required. Applicants with diverse backgrounds and/or previous job or life experiences in a conservation field are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be able to clearly communicate complex ideas in writing and be willing to learn in a fast-paced, self-directed environment. Working knowledge of a statistical software package, familiarity with R or Python, and proficiency with ArcGIS (or open-source GIS software) is preferable. The successful candidate must meet the admissions criteria for and enroll in one of the following programs at the University of Montana: [PhD in Forestry & Conservation Sciences](#); or [PhD in Systems Ecology](#).

To Apply: Interested applicants should send a single PDF with the following to Dr. Brian Chaffin (brian.chaffin@umontana.edu) for immediate consideration: (1) a cover letter that includes a well-articulated statement of research interests, goals, and previous research and/or relevant experiences; (2) a resume or CV; (3) unofficial transcripts and GRE scores; and (4) contact information for three references. The selected candidate will apply to the University of Montana for admission. Graduate degree program requirements can be found at <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/grad/> and <http://www.umt.edu/grad/Apply/>. Potential start dates include January, June, or August 2020.

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Funded PhD Research Assistantship – INFEWS

Position Description: Dr. [Brian Chaffin](#) (Water Policy & Governance) at the University of Montana’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation seeks applicants for an exciting opportunity to pursue a PhD while engaging in a National Science Foundation funded Research Traineeship (NRT) program designed to educate future leaders interested in addressing challenges situated at the nexus of food, water, and energy. The goal of the [UM BRIDGES](#) Program is to train students from diverse backgrounds to advance societally-relevant science toward more sustainable food-energy-water systems. The successful candidate will engage in qualitative and quantitative social science methods to better understand how agriculture and water management legacies impact present-day landscapes and social-ecological interactions that define the American West. The successful candidate will also join a multi-institutional (U. Montana, U. Nebraska-Lincoln) team of social and biophysical scientists collaborating on a research project titled “[Resilience Informatics for the Convergence of Critical Capacities to Address Regional-scale Environmental Change.](#)” This research leverages large-scale spatial data to better understand landscape-scale social-ecological transitions in near real-time. The successful applicant will engage as a member of the social science team working on a wide range of research objectives, including: social and political analyses of nested case studies in Montana and Nebraska aimed at better understanding local conservation practices and land/water use decision making. The PhD student will have significant flexibility within this project to pursue dissertation research leveraging diverse methodological approaches such as quasi-field experiments, surveys, delivery of in-person workshops, focus groups, and/or ethnography. This research assistantship provides a stipend for three years (12-month/year) including tuition, as well as opportunities to engage in extended field work, professional trainings, and mentorship in interdisciplinary, team-based, social-ecological research.

Desired Qualifications: The ideal candidate will have a strong academic background (BS or MS) in geography, sociology, anthropology, or related conservation social science field. M.S. or previous graduate degree preferred, but not required. Applicants with diverse backgrounds and/or previous job or life experiences in a conservation field are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be able to clearly communicate complex ideas in writing and be willing to learn in a fast-paced, self-directed environment. The successful candidate must meet the admissions criteria for one of the following programs at the University of Montana: [PhD in Forestry & Conservation Sciences](#); or [PhD in Systems Ecology](#).

To Apply: Interested applicants should send a single PDF with the following to Dr. Brian Chaffin (brian.chaffin@umontana.edu) for *immediate consideration*: (1) a cover letter that includes a well-articulated statement of research interests, goals, and previous research and/or relevant experiences; (2) a resume or CV; (3) unofficial transcripts and GRE scores; and (4) contact information for three references. The selected candidate will apply to the University of Montana for admission. Graduate degree program requirements can be found at <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/grad/> and <http://www.umt.edu/grad/Apply/>. **Preferable state date is ASAP** or January, June, or August 2020.

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