A Ph.D. assistantship is available at the University of Idaho to study interspecific competition between shrubs, forbs, and planted conifer tree seedlings in northern Idaho. The student will join the University of Idaho Forest Regeneration Lab within the Center for Forest Nursery and Seedling Research (CFNSR) and supervised by Dr. Andrew Nelson. The assistantship includes a competitive stipend, waiver of out-of-state tuition, full coverage of in-state tuition and student health insurance. Additional funds are available for research supplies and travel. Initial funding is available for 3 years through a combined research and teaching assistantship. Additional funding beyond the initial three years is possible.

The student will study competition for between shrubs, forbs, and conifer seedlings using a variety of physiological and environmental metrics. Examples include studying depth of soil water acquisition using stable isotopes, comparing whole-plant water use and water-use efficiency, and/or measuring soil moisture depletion during the growing season. Water is the major limiting resource on recently disturbed forest sites in northern Idaho since the region experiences 2-3 months of growing season drought each year. Interspecific competition from native and exotic shrubs, forbs, and grasses can often be intense during the first and second year of tree seedling growth after planting, often resulting in seedling mortality.

The position provides ample opportunities to interact with and present research at scientific conferences and at regional manager meetings. The student will gain teaching experience by assisting with forestry classes at the University of Idaho. The student is expected to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals.

The student will have access to laboratories and field sites at the University of Idaho and across northern Idaho. The labs are fully outfitted with equipment to conduct stable isotope analyses, and measure plant physiology and morphology.

**Required qualifications** include a M.S. degree in forestry, plant ecophysiology, botany, or related discipline. The successful candidate will demonstrate an ability to work both independently and as a team member, and be comfortable traveling and working in the lab, and field. The student must be able to pass a criminal background.

The student is expected to begin January 2021. The position is based in Moscow, Idaho, home to the University of Idaho. Moscow is in northern Idaho on the border with Washington in a region known as the Palouse. The area offers ample outdoor recreational opportunities within a short distance from Moscow.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter detailing their interest in the position, a curriculum vitae, contact information for three professional or academic references, unofficial transcripts, and examples of past research publications (if available) to Dr. Andrew Nelson (asnelson@uidaho.edu). Review of applications will begin immediately until a suitable candidate is found.

**ANDREW S. NELSON**, Ph.D.
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