PhD Assistantship in Fire Ecology evaluating the effectiveness of fuel breaks in mitigating size and risk of damaging wildfires and the fuel break ecological impacts in sagebrush steppe ecosystems. Dr. Eva Strand (evas@uidaho.edu) and Dr. Tim Prather (tprather@uidaho.edu) are seeking a highly motivated PhD student in Natural Resources at the Department of Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences and Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Idaho.

The successful applicant would conduct research involving vegetation and fuel sampling in the field, spatial and statistical analysis of data from past interactions of fuel breaks and fire, modeling of fire behavior using existing tools and decision support systems, and conduct plant community analysis within and around fuel breaks. Desired skills include experience with some aspect of computer modeling and spatial analysis, vegetation sampling, and utilize herbicides for annual grass management and ability to work in natural areas. Evidence of good oral and written communication skills is required.

The research will be conducted in an interdisciplinary team of faculty and students evaluating the effects of fuel break types on fire mitigation, plant community ecology, and the rural economy. The team collaborates closely with research partners including the Bureau of Land Management and the local ranching community of southern Idaho. The project is funded by the Joint Fire Science Program.

The PhD assistantship has a starting date of January 2021. To apply, please email Eva Strand (evas@uidaho.edu) or Tim Prather (tprather@uidaho.edu) with a cover letter describing your research interests, goals and relevant experience, a complete CV, college transcripts, GRE scores and contact information of three references.

Review of applications will begin immediately, and the position is scheduled to remain open until a suitable candidate is found. After the selection, the successful candidate will apply to be admitted to the College of Graduate Studies of the University of Idaho with the earliest start date of January 2021; information about the application procedure is available online.