Range Vegetation Technicians (3) needed. 2 positions May 14 – Aug 3, 2018 and 1 position May 14 – June 29, 2018 for a greater sage-grouse study near Roundup, Montana, USA (50 mi north of Billings). The study assesses demographics and resource selection in greater sage-grouse in response to grazing. The study also evaluates the direct effects of grazing on vegetation in sage-grouse habitat. This collaborative project is led by Lorelle Berkeley, Ph.D., Research Wildlife Biologist with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP); Mark Szczypinski, Conservation Technician, FWP; and Victoria Dreitz, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Wildlife Biology Program and Avian Science Center Director, University of Montana, College of Forestry and Conservation.

Duties include collection of detailed vegetation data at sage-grouse nests and random points among grazing treatments across the study area. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in range vegetation measurement and identification of Montana species, experience in operation of 4WD trucks and ATVs on low-maintenance roads, use of GPS units, and current First Aid/CPR certification. If you are not currently certified in First Aid/CPR, you will need to become certified before arriving to begin work. Applicants must enjoy working and living in a remote rural area with a diverse group of people including private landowners and livestock producers. Conditions include extreme temperatures, rain, snow, “gumbo” roads, wind, rattlesnakes, and abundant prickly pear. Work schedule is dynamic and demanding—applicants must be willing to work when needed and take days off when the opportunity arises. The successful candidates will be expected to assist the sage-grouse field technicians as needed with monitoring sage-grouse hens or chicks using radiotelemetry, night-time capture and marking of sage-grouse chicks or hens with radio transmitters, nest finding and monitoring, or data entry and proofreading. The range and sage-grouse technicians are considered one field crew with slightly different designations of daily duties, but they will each help each other with duties when necessary. Field technicians must have good interpersonal and communication skills as they will be required to work in teams of 2 most of the time. However, technicians must also be willing to work alone in remote locations. The rewards include the endless vistas of central Montana, abundant recreation opportunities within a short (1-2 hour) drive, calf branding and roadside chats with ranchers, phenomenal wildlife viewing, and field research experience. A strong work ethic, good physical condition, and sense of humor are a must. Technicians will be required to hike up to several miles through sagebrush, over uneven terrain, and in hot temperatures to reach some sampling sites. Successful candidates will be hired through the University of Montana’s Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. The position has a monthly stipend of $2,038/month plus free shared housing with internet provided. No benefits are associated with these positions. Applications will be accepted until March 23, 2018 however the positions will be filled earlier if suitable candidates are found. To apply, email a cover letter, résumé, and 3 references all within a single MS Word attachment to Mark Szczypinski at: Mark.Szczypinski@mt.gov. The subject heading of your email should read “Range Vegetation Technician Application”. Include your last name as the beginning of all files (ex: Smith_John-Range Vegetation Technician). Failure to follow these instructions may result in your application being disqualified. Please mention whether or not you are currently certified in CPR/First Aid and direct any questions about the position to Mark via e-mail or by phone at 406-320-2529.
**Project Summary:**
The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a sagebrush-obligate species that was recently up for ESA listing. The loss and degradation of the sagebrush habitats has led to extirpation of this species from over half of its historical range. Due to large conservation efforts and cooperation by multiple agencies and private landowners to conserve and manage sage-grouse habitat, the sage-grouse was not listed, but USFWSD will re-evaluate its status in 2020. To maintain populations and habitat for this species, these conservation efforts need to continue. Our study evaluates how conservation efforts through managed grazing directly affect sage-grouse vital rates (hen survival, nest success, chick survival—the 3 most important drivers of population growth in greater sage-grouse) and habitat. Findings will inform federal and state grazing management programs as well as other landowners that incorporate wildlife interests into grazing management around the West.

**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.