Sage-grouse Technicians (4) needed 7-April to 1-Aug-2014 for a greater sage-grouse study near the town of Roundup, Montana (~50 mi north of Billings). Study will assess biological responses of vegetation and radio-marked sage-grouse females and chicks to large-scale grazing treatments on both public and private lands (mostly private). This collaborative project is led by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks research staff and Dr. Dave Naugle, science advisor to NRCS’s Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI).

Duties potentially include, but are not limited to, conducting lek counts (April through May), monitoring nest success and hen and chick survival via radiotelemetry, collection of vegetation data, data entry, maintaining field vehicles, and other miscellaneous duties as needed. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in radiotelemetry and in operation of 4WD trucks and ATVs on low-maintenance roads. 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, wind, rattlensnakes, and abundant prickly pear. Work schedule is extremely dynamic and demanding, including late nights, early mornings, some long days during the peak of nests hatching, and unpredictable days off—applicants must be willing to work when needed and take days off when the opportunity arises. Applicants must also be available to work for the entire duration of time listed on this announcement—we need technicians that can start work on 7-April and work all the way through the end of July. The rewards include the endless vistas of central Montana, abundant outdoor recreation opportunities within a short (1-2 hour) drive, calf branding and roadside chats with ranchers, phenomenal wildlife viewing, and wildlife research experience. A strong work ethic, the ability to work alone all day in remote areas and be self-motivated, good physical condition, and sense of humor are a must. The wage is $11.58 per hour plus free housing. Successful candidates will be hired as short-term workers through the University of Montana’s Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit; there are no benefits associated with these positions. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. To apply, email a cover letter, résumé, and 3 references all within a single MS Word attachment to Lorelle Berkeley, Research Wildlife Biologist, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks at: lberkeley@mt.gov; AND Mark Szczypinski, Biological Technician, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks at: mszczypinski.fwp@gmail.com. Direct questions to Mark at 406-320-2529 or the email addresses listed above.

Project Summary:
The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a sagebrush-obligate species that was designated as warranted for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2010 but precluded due to higher priority species. The loss and degradation of the sagebrush habitats has led to its extirpation from over half of its original range. In 2015 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will make a final listing decision for the sage-grouse. To help avoid the listing of the greater sage-grouse, the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently implemented the Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI) program, which provides incentives to private landowners within key areas to help them modify their ranches and grazing systems to improve sage-grouse habitat and populations. Our goal is to evaluate the effects of SGI grazing systems on sage-grouse vital rates, distribution, and habitats using a focal sage-grouse population in central MT, and to inform NRCS’s grazing programs by recommending modifications (if needed) that can benefit sage-grouse. We are focusing on a
representative sage-grouse population and network of SGI-enrolled land in central MT. Viability analyses suggest that adult female survival, chick survival, and nest success are the vital rates that contribute most to population growth. Thus we use radiotelemetry to monitor hen survival and habitat use, nest success and nest-site selection, and chick survival and habitat use. Findings will inform federal and state grazing management programs as well as 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.