

## **M.S. in Botany—University of Wyoming and USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station**

The Laughlin Research Lab is seeking applicants for a M.S. Botany position in the Department of Botany at the University of Wyoming. This project is a collaboration with Dr. Paula Fornwalt, Research Ecologist at the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in Fort Collins, Colorado.

The overall objective of the project is to evaluate vegetation recovery following disturbance in a subalpine ecosystem in the Rocky Mountains. The project will be carried out in the stunning Snowy Range in the Medicine Bow National Forest near Laramie, where a spruce beetle epidemic killed many of the Engelmann spruce trees. There is flexibility about what the student will study depending on their strengths and interests, but possible topics include Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine regeneration; ecophysiology of dominant understory plant species; snag fall dynamics; and fuel loading.

Preferred qualifications of the successful applicant include the following: 1) undergraduate degree in Biology, Botany, Forestry, or related degree; 2) passion for plants and Rocky Mountain ecosystems; 3) undergraduate research experience in ecology; and 4) interest in learning quantitative modeling skills. Preferred start date is May 2025. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

**TO APPLY:** We encourage interested students to reach out to Daniel Laughlin via email to enquire about the project ([daniel.laughlin@uwyo.edu](mailto:daniel.laughlin@uwyo.edu)). If you would like to apply, please email an application that includes the following documents: (1) a one-page statement of research interests that addresses the preferred qualifications, (2) unofficial transcripts, (3) Curriculum Vitae, and (4) contact information for three professional/academic references.

Helpful links:

Laughlin Research Lab (<https://plant-traits.net/about/>)

Dr. Paula Fornwalt at RMRS (<https://research.fs.usda.gov/about/people/pfornwalt>)

Department of Botany (<https://www.uwyo.edu/botany/index.html>)

Graduate Program at UW (<https://www.uwyo.edu/uwgrad/prospective/applying/index.html>)

City of Laramie (<https://www.visitlaramie.org/>)

The University of Wyoming is located in Laramie in a high prairie nestled between the Snowy Range and the Laramie Range. We are blessed with ample outdoor recreational opportunities including hiking, biking, skiing, climbing, boating, and much more. Laramie is a classic western town with a supportive local community.

