



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Natural Resource Management

Postdoctoral Researcher Opportunity: Enhancing capacity of private and indigenous bison producers through resource assessment of NRCS and Extension

A postdoctoral research position is available in Dr. Rachel Short's lab in the Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University (<https://www.sdstate.edu/natural-resource-management>). The position will join a multidisciplinary team on a USDA-NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) project on rangeland management beginning in January 2025. We seek a candidate with broad interests in stakeholder engagement, informal and nonformal learning practices, and climate adaptation on working lands; a strong quantitative skillset in the social sciences; and excellent organizational and communication skills. The selected candidate is expected to contribute to the broader project by addressing questions related to stakeholder needs, resource availability to bison producers, and train-the-trainer opportunities but may also develop related research of their own. Responsibilities include developing and implementing surveys, contributing to train-the-trainer workshops and other technical materials, presenting findings at professional conferences, and publishing results in peer-reviewed journals. The postdoc will be supported beginning January 22, 2025, and for up to 3 years assuming satisfactory annual reviews. The postdoc will be based in Rapid City, SD, at the West River Research and Extension Center, and will have opportunities to travel to the field site and workshop locations. There are also opportunities to participate in professional development and collaboration with graduate students, other postdoctoral researchers, Extension personnel, and faculty.

Qualifications: Candidates must have a doctorate in ecology, education, or a closely related field from an accredited university awarded by the start date, a valid U.S. driver's license, and must pass a background check. Candidates with experience in survey design and quantitative analysis in the social sciences are encouraged to apply. Candidates should have a strong record of research dissemination, including publications, and project leadership. Preferred qualifications are experience on working lands and with stakeholder engagement.

Interested candidates: For more information, please contact Dr. Rachel Short (Rachel.Short@sdstate.edu; rashort.weebly.com). Candidates interested in this position should apply by November 15, 2024, for full consideration. Please submit the following: a cover letter (1-2 pages); CV; unofficial PhD transcripts; and contact information for 3 professional references.

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