

**MS Position Available**  
**USDA-NRCS: Deciphering Diversity for Landowners**  
**South Dakota State University**  
**Department of Natural Resource Management**

One funded Masters graduate research position is available beginning in Spring semester 2022 in the Department of Natural Resource Management under the supervision of Drs. Maribeth Latvis and Lora Perkins for students interested in conservation and management of biodiversity, ecosystem services, soil health, and stakeholder engagement and education.

This graduate position is part of a collaboration among the SDSU Native Plant Initiative, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Geological Survey with funding from USDA-NRCS. Overall project objectives include multidimensional assessment of biodiversity, soil health, pollinator response, and development of educational tools for land management. All project team members will participate in the establishment and maintenance of experimental plots at Oak Lake Field Station (26 miles NE of Brookings, SD) to examine the effects of biodiversity on soil health and pollinator reproductive success. There will also be numerous opportunities to contribute to other collaborative projects, develop teaching/mentoring skills, attend workshops/conferences, work collaboratively with multiple agencies, and participate in outreach activities. We emphasize broad training for professional success.

Successful applicants will have enthusiasm for natural history, ecology, restoration, and fieldwork. Strong written and verbal communication skills, and a willingness to learn new skills and techniques is required. Graduate assistantships include a competitive stipend and tuition waiver.

The Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University combines Range, Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecology within the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences. The department is committed to quality mentoring and professional development for their students. SDSU is the Land Grant University for the state and has approximately 13,000 students. SDSU is located in Brookings, SD, approximately one hour north of Sioux Falls and four hours west of the Twin Cities in Minnesota and offers a low cost-of-living in a small college-town atmosphere.

To apply, send a single PDF file that includes your CV; a letter describing your experience, research interests, and career goals; and contact information for three professional references to Maribeth Latvis ([Maribeth.Latvis@sdstate.edu](mailto:Maribeth.Latvis@sdstate.edu)). Review of applications will begin on Nov. 29, 2021 and continue until the position is filled.