

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

A new position for a postdoctoral research associate is available with the Native Plant Initiative at South Dakota State University (SDSU). This position is part of a collaboration among the SDSU Native Plant Initiative, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Geological Survey with funding from and in collaboration with the USDA-NRCS. The project will use experimental plots at Oak Lake Field Station (26 miles NE of Brookings, SD) to examine multidimensional aspects of biodiversity and their impact on soil health and pollinators.

We emphasize broad training for professional success, and opportunities will be tailored to individual career interests. During the project there will be ample opportunity to develop outreach and educational tools for land management. 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 science communication and outreach activities.

The postdoc will be located at SDSU in Brookings, SD, and will be mentored by Dr. Lora Perkins and Dr. Maribeth Latvis (Department of Natural Resource Management, SDSU), Dr. Marissa Ahlering (The Nature Conservancy), and Dr. Diane L. Larson (US Geological Survey).

The position will begin before April 2022 and has three years of funding.

Core functions include:

- Installation and management of grassland diversity plots at Oak Lake Field Station
- Quality control of data collection and data management
- Work in a leadership role in all facets of research and student mentoring (both MS and undergraduate)
- Contribute to the development of outreach and educational materials for NRCS staff, agency staff, and private landowners (written and video)
- Contribute to a positive lab culture that promotes community, inclusivity, diversity, equity, mental well-being, and work-life balance

Required qualifications include:

- A Ph.D. in a relevant field (e.g., ecology, restoration, conservation, pollinators, plant/insect interactions)
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and contribute to a positive team environment
- Demonstrated written and oral communication skills to diverse audiences
- Familiarity with applying statistical approaches to complex experimental designs

Preferred qualifications include:

- Familiarity with grasslands, soil health, and/or ecological restoration
- Familiarity with conducting analyses in R
- Enthusiasm for native pollinators and native plants

The Department of Natural Resource Management at SDSU combines Range, Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecology within the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences. South Dakota State University is the Land Grant University for the state and has approximately 13,000 students. The school is in Brookings, SD approximately one hour north of Sioux Falls, SD 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 that includes: CV; cover letter describing how you meet the required and preferred qualification for this position and your personal career goals; and contact information for three professional references to Dr. Lora Perkins ([lora.perkins@sdstate.edu](mailto:lora.perkins@sdstate.edu)). Review of applications will begin on Nov. 29, 2021 and continue until the position is filled.

South Dakota State University is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its faculty, staff and students. Women, veterans, persons with disabilities, and minorities are encouraged to apply. Arrangements for accommodations required by disabilities can be made by emailing [HR@sdstate.edu](mailto:HR@sdstate.edu). SDSU prohibits discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, ancestry, gender, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran's status, or any other protected class in the offering of all educational programs and employment opportunities. Individuals with concerns regarding discrimination should contact Equal Opportunity Officer/Title IX Coordinator, Human Resources, Morrill Hall 100, SDSU, and Brookings, SD 57007. Phone: (605) 688-4128.