



PhD position in Biology with specialization in Ecology Uppsala

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Prescribed burning - how, where, and when should it be applied to be most beneficial?

Are you looking for a PhD project in which you, based on thorough ecological understanding, can work on developing measures that promote biodiversity? Do you have an interest in issues related to forest nature conservation, and want to work in a research project where you get to cooperate and communicate with county administrative boards and landowners? Then this PhD project is something for you.

At the Department of Ecology we conduct internationally strong empirical and theoretical research and education aimed towards sustainable forestry, agriculture and conservation. Our research on populations, communities and ecosystems forms the basis for our research on the effects of land use and climate on animals, plants and soil. The PhD education at the Department of Ecology aims to develop your creative and analytical thinking, and to strengthen your research, communication and outreach skills. The successful applicant will enter a dynamic and internationally distinguished research environment, and will actively develop the project and design the studies.

Project description

Although prescribed burning is a costly conservation measure, systematic follow-up of burns is lacking. This means that it is unclear which conservation goals the measure achieves. Through ecological assessment of completed prescribed burns, we will examine which conservation values the burns create, and which environmental and ecological factors that are important for promoting different conservation values. The PhD student will examine if the biological conservation result of the burn depends on fire behavior (e.g. how the burning was executed, weather conditions etc.), the area's per-burn conservation value (e.g. species and structural diversity), and if the results depends on the conservation value of the surrounding landscape. The results of this PhD project will clarify where, how, and when prescribed burns should be applied to be most beneficial, and under what conditions prescribed burning is ineffective, and should be avoided. The project aims to improve current nature conservation practices and, in the long term, and develop a sustainable forest management and elucidate the ecological mechanisms behind the successful conservation management. The doctoral work includes collecting and analyzing data on how species (insects and fungi) of conservation interest and how prescribed burning influence the occurrence of forest structures that are important for maintaining biodiversity.

Qualifications

The applicant should have a Master's degree (or equivalent) in biology, environmental science, or similar subjects with specialization in ecology. Moreover, the applicant should have a strong interest in both theoretical and applied aspects of conservation biology. Advanced level courses in population or community ecology, conservation biology and landscape ecology are considered a merit, as are experiences of fieldwork and identification of insects and fungi. Skills in planning, executing, and reporting scientific studies are considered a merit, as is experience with statistical analyses and GIS. The applicant should have the ability to work both independently and in a team. Proven ability to communicate excellently in written and spoken English is essential. A driving license is required.

Selection among applicants meeting the requirements is made with reference to written application including curriculum vitae, copies of degrees and transcripts of academic records, one copy of the dissertation for masters or undergraduate degree, a list of at least two references familiar with the applicant's qualifications, certified knowledge of the English language and an interview.

Read about the PhD education at SLU at <https://www.slu.se/en/education/programmes-courses/doctoral-studies/>

Place of work

Uppsala

Forms for funding or employment

100% funded PhD (4 years)

Starting date

The start date is negotiable

Application

Welcome with your application at the latest by 2019-06-09.

The application must include: i) a description of your research interests and motivations for applying for the position; ii) a CV; (iii) contact details for at least two reference persons; iv) certified copies of previous university degrees and transcripts of completed courses.

In order to be eligible for postgraduate education, either a Masters degree or at least four years of full-time studies, of which at least one year should be at the advanced level, is required.

Union representatives

<https://intern.slu.se/min-anstalning/facket/kontaktpersoner/>

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) develops the understanding and sustainable use and management of biological natural resources. The university ranks well internationally within its subject areas. SLU is a research-intensive university that also offers unique degree programmes in for example rural development and natural resource management, environmental economics, animal science and landscape architecture.

SLU has just over 3,000 employees, 5,000 students and a turnover of SEK 3 billion. The university has invested heavily in a modern, attractive environment on its campuses in Alnarp, Umeå and Uppsala.

www.slu.se

SLU is an equal opportunity employer.

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