

Graduate Research Assistantship Announcement
School of Natural Resources – University of Missouri

“Evaluating factors affecting regeneration challenges of upland oak species
(*Quercus* spp.) in mid-Missouri”

A Master of Science graduate research assistantship is available with Dr. Benjamin Knapp in the School of Natural Resources (<http://www.snr.missouri.edu/forestry/>) at University of Missouri. The assistantship will be in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station. The goal of this research is to better understand the factors limiting regeneration success of oak species in mid-Missouri. Throughout much of Missouri, oak regeneration is not a major problem due to harsh site conditions and lack of competing species. However, in the river hills region of mid-Missouri, sugar maple is a strong competitor in the forest understory, deer densities are higher than in other parts of the state, and invasive species present possible challenges to oak regeneration. This project will use a manipulative study to disentangle possible limiting factors for oak regeneration success.

The project will occur on the Baskett Wildlife Research and Education Center, a University of Missouri property located within 20 miles from campus. Duties of this position will include completion of required coursework, field sampling, data organization, data analyses related to study objectives, and the completion of a thesis and peer-reviewed publication(s). Competitive candidates for this position will have a B.S. degree in forestry, ecology, biology, natural resources, or a closely related discipline, proficiency in written and oral communication, strong GRE scores, and evidence of scholastic success. The position will begin in May or August 2020.

The successful candidate will receive tuition support and a competitive stipend (\$22,000 per year). To apply, please submit the following to Dr. Benjamin Knapp (knappb@missouri.edu):

- 1) personal statement of career goals
- 2) resume or curriculum vitae
- 3) transcripts
- 4) GRE scores
- 5) contact information for three references

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until a candidate is selected. Come join our growing lab (<https://www.mosilviculture.com/>)!

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