PhD Assistantship Available in Entomology and Soil Ecology

University of Idaho

A PhD research assistantship is available immediately for a highly motivated and qualified student within a large, regional interdisciplinary project evaluating climate-change-resilient cereal production systems for the Inland Pacific Northwest (IPNW). The focus for the entomology assistantship is the soil macroinvertebrate communities associated with ‘business and usual’ and alternative production systems that have greater cropping intensity and diversity. The research will include characterizing these communities taxonomically and functionally using standard sampling and community ecology methods, conducting controlled experiments to test hypotheses concerning the functions of these assemblages, pursuing mechanistic questions including how interspecific interactions are mediated chemically. The position will be within the newly created Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology at the University of Idaho. The expertise of the supervisory team includes entomology, community ecology, agroecology and chemical ecology. The student will be directed in developing and pursuing specific researchable questions pertaining to system function and management of pests and beneficial organisms. The entire project team includes other entomologists, weed scientists, agronomists, soil scientists, economists, and atmospheric scientists. There is a strong outreach component with many collaborating producers. The student will be expected to engage with this team while contributing information to the overall goals of the project. The collaborating institutions are the lead institution, the University of Idaho, Washington State University, Oregon State University, and the USDA-ARS Northwest Sustainable Agroecosystems Research Unit in Pullman, Washington.

The position is available now and could be filled for the spring semester or beginning of summer 2019. For more information contact Dr. Sanford Eigenbrode (sanforde@uidaho.edu).