



# PhD Assistantship in Forest Ecology

Oklahoma State University  
Department of Forestry

The OSU Department of Forestry seeks to fill a PhD assistantship position in forest ecology to contribute to the project, **"Reconstruction of Fire Regimes and Stand Dynamics of the Oak Forests in the Oklahoma Cross Timbers"**. The student will actively participate in the research efforts of a team of researchers including faculty at OSU, the University of Arkansas and the USDA Forest Service. The student will be responsible for developing a research question and experimental approach, and conducting field research concerning reconstruction of fire history and stand dynamics.

The Cross Timbers vegetation type is a mosaic of tallgrass prairie, oak woodland and oak forest covering almost 5 million hectares from southeastern Kansas across Oklahoma to north-central Texas. It retains some of the best preserved old-growth oak forests in the south-central US because the forest has little commercial timber value and the land is not suitable for agriculture. Fire has played a dominant role in determining the vegetation composition and structure of the Cross Timbers. The exclusion of fire over many decades has led to changes in the vegetation and the role of fire and fire regime attributes. The potential changes due to fire exclusion include loss of biodiversity, more dangerous fire regime and lower productivity.

**Position:** The student will enroll in a PhD program in the Plant Sciences Program at OSU starting Fall 2006. The stipend will be \$20,000 per year for three years and will be renewed each year based on satisfactory progress. Benefits include waiver of non-resident tuition, partial waiver of resident tuition and health insurance.

**Application:** Please provide the following by April 1, 2006: statement of purpose, three letters of reference, curriculum vitae, official transcripts of all college level study, GRE scores and a completed OSU Graduate College application. Preference will be given to US citizens and students with a GPA of at least 3.0. Applicants should have academic experience in a field that provides background for forest ecology research described above.

**CONTACT →**

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