**Postdoctoral Research Associate: Plant Dispersal and Responses to Disturbance.**

**JOB SUMMARY:**
The Sullivan Lab in the Department of Plant Biology at Michigan State University is seeking applications for a postdoctoral research associate in plant community ecology, with an emphasis on using large datasets to determine the role of dispersal and colonization for biodiversity maintenance. Our lab’s research broadly focuses on how global change factors alter plant movement ecology, and the subsequent consequences of this altered movement for population and community dynamics. The position is 100% research with a flexible start date between November 2022 - March 2023.

This position will work to understand plant community dynamics by focusing on the mechanisms behind biodiversity maintenance related to reproduction, dispersal and colonization. Successful applicants will be able to work with research networks including DRAGNet (https://dragnetglobal.weebly.com/) and the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Networks at Kellogg Biological Station and Cedar Creek for connecting patterns in grassland dispersal to community recovery from disturbance. Successful applicants will be able to tackle this question from a variety of angles (trait-based, experimental, theoretical, combining large datasets) and will develop their own research questions. In addition to research, with us the applicant will be able to gain professional development skills including time management, mentoring students (both graduate and undergraduate) and large-scale networking. Competitive candidates will have previous experience working in highly collaborative settings, as the position requires collaboration with local, U.S. based, and international community ecologists.

The Sullivan lab actively strives to create an inclusive and equitable environment for Black, Indigenous, LatinX, and other scientists of color. To this end, we strongly encourage those from minoritized groups to apply. Successful applicants will have contributed to promoting a culture that fosters diversity in STEM.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**
Competitive candidates should be highly motivated, with an ability to work both independently and in collaborative settings. Candidates should have a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology, environmental science, plant biology, statistics, or a related field by March 2023. Strong programming ability in R is required. Additionally, candidates must show evidence of excellent verbal and written communication skills, with a proven record of publishing in peer-reviewed journals and a strong commitment to inclusion and equity in STEM.

**TO APPLY:**
To apply, submit:
- a cover letter stating 1) your interest in the position, 2) your previous experience as it relates to the advertised position, and 3) a description of how your work (research, teaching, outreach, etc) supports inclusion and equity in science.
- a CV
- 1-2 recent first-authored publications
- names and contact information for up to 3 professional references.
Review of applications will begin August 29, 2022 and will continue until the position is filled. Submit application materials to Dr. Sullivan at LLSULL@MSU.EDU. We are working to get the position into MSU HR, but since I have not started yet, this is taking a bit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The position is for one year, with an anticipated extension for one year contingent upon performance. The position provides a competitive benefits package, including health insurance, $3,000 to cover moving expenses, and an annual salary of $54,000. Lab details can be found at https://www.sullivanplanteology.com/. For more information or questions about the application process, contact Dr. Lauren Sullivan at LLSULL@msu.edu.