Erik A. Lehnhoff, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Weed Ecology

EPPWS

MSC 3BE

New Mexico State University

Las Cruces, NM 88003

Ph.D. Position in Soil Spatial Ecology/Entomology: Ant Impacts of Rangeland Seeds

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

Project Summary: Many desert rangelands are degraded and restoration via seeding of native plants is necessary. Rangeland restoration is inhibited because ants harvest and consume many of the seeds sown. This project will investigate soil physical properties and vegetation characteristics on harvester ant colony density and seed predation on rangelands.

We are seeking a Ph.D. student to conduct research on this project. Research will be under the direction of Drs. King (<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Joanie-King>) and Lehnhoff (<https://wordpress.nmsu.edu/lehnhoff/>). The successful candidate will work within the Departments of Plant & Environmental Sciences (<https://pes.nmsu.edu/>) and Entomology, Plant Pathology & Weed Science (<https://eppws.nmsu.edu/>) and have the opportunity to work with a diverse team of faculty within the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to gain broad experience in entomology and spatial ecology. Furthermore, the there will be opportunity to work with scientists at the Jornada Experimental Range and the Jornada Long Term Ecological Research site.

Basic qualifications: Candidates should have: a MS degree in soil science, spatial ecology, plant ecology, entomology, geography (or a closely related field); the ability to communicate effectively both in writing and orally; experience with GIS and with landscape scale data; and a willingness to occasionally work in inclement weather including extreme heat.

Preferred qualifications: Ideal candidates will have strong quantitative and statistical skills and a demonstrated ability to perform independent field research.

The position will start in June 2023 (start date negotiable); interested candidates should **apply no later than February 15, 2023**. To apply, submit *in a single PDF document* (1) a cover letter describing experience and interests, (2) CV, (3) unofficial transcripts, (4) GRE scores, and (5) TOEFL (if required) scores, and (5) contact information for three professional references to both lehnhoff@nmsu.edu and joaniek@nmsu.edu.

Salary: $ 26,251 for four years. Additional compensation to cover tuition and fees will be provided.

For more information, interested candidates should email Dr. Joanie King or Dr. Erik Lehnhoff.