

Over recent decades, Oklahoma has experienced a series of water resource issues arising from climate change, woody plant encroachment, and urbanization associated with a growing human population. While Oklahoma has been in a relatively wet period, droughts imposed major threats to water availability in many watersheds. The terrestrial ecosystems are playing a critical role in affecting regional water availability and water quality.

The Ecosystem Modeling Lab in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology at Oklahoma State University is seeking applicants for a funded M.S. research assistant. Supported by NSF and USDA Forest Service programs, the successful candidate will work on scientific topics related to ecosystem hydrological processes and river water quantity/quality issues. Major duties will include: (1) Measuring Forest evapotranspiration and water consumption at a forest site in Stillwater, OK; (2) Using ecohydrological modeling to simulate surface water and groundwater availability; and (3) Preparing research results for presentations and publication.

Candidates that are creative, independent, and passionate about ecology and hydrological processes are encouraged to apply. M.S. Assistantships include a graduate stipend of \$19,000 annually, resident and non-resident tuition waiver, and health insurance at \$20 per month (for student only; family coverage is available for an additional fee). The start date will be August 15, 2022.

**Required qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree in hydrology, forestry, water resources and environmental sciences, natural resource management or related field.
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or greater (as required by the Department and Graduate College)
- Demonstrated excellence in English (written and oral) communication skills
- Positive Attitude
- Reliability
- Ability to follow instructions

**Preferred qualifications:**

- Enthusiasm for problem-solving and data analysis.
- Interest or experience in computer programming (such as C, Python, and R).

Information about the Department of Natural Resource Ecology & Management at Oklahoma State University can be found at <https://agriculture.okstate.edu/departments-programs/natural-resource/index.html>. Interested candidates should contact Dr. Jia Yang ([jia.yang11@okstate.edu](mailto:jia.yang11@okstate.edu)) or Dr. Chris Zou ([chris.zou@okstate.edu](mailto:chris.zou@okstate.edu)) by emailing a letter of interest, updated CV, unofficial transcripts, and contact information for three references. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

**Institutional Information:**

Oklahoma State University is classified as an R1: Doctoral Universities, i.e., “very high research activity”, in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The university is a land grant institution with an enrollment of about 25,000 students located midway between Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management is part of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and conducts interdisciplinary research, instruction, and extension education to address the sustainable management and conservation of the wildlife, forest, rangeland, and fishery resources of Oklahoma and beyond. The Department is a source of cutting-edge research, quality instruction, and effective outreach to students, landowners, managers, and public agencies.

Any offer of employment is contingent on the university's verification of credentials and other information required by law and/or university policies, including but not limited to a criminal background check. Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all

individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions.

*On September 9, 2021, U.S. President Biden issued an executive order requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for federal employees, contractors, and others. It was determined that this executive order applied to Oklahoma State University and its employees. On December 7, 2021, a federal judge temporarily blocked the implementation of the federal contractor vaccination mandate and its associated guidance. Following the injunction, Oklahoma State University has, consistent with applicable law, paused the vaccination mandate. Please be aware this injunction may be lifted later and will require all employees to be fully vaccinated or receive an approved accommodation as a condition of employment.*

**Contact Information:**

Dr. Jia Yang

Assistant Professor

Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management

Oklahoma State University

E-mail: [jia.yang11@okstate.edu](mailto:jia.yang11@okstate.edu)

Dr. Chris Zou

Professor

Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management

Oklahoma State University

E-mail: [chris.zou@okstate.edu](mailto:chris.zou@okstate.edu)