

Summer 2026 internship - plant physiological ecology research

Global change has increased forest mortality, changed tree species distributions, and altered terrestrial C dynamics in unpredictable ways. Our research seeks to link plant function with hyperspectral imaging to improve our ability to monitor and predict conifer tree survival and mortality under stress (e.g., drought, heat). In a largescale greenhouse experiment on four tree species, we will examine how tree carbohydrate levels influence drought and heat stress resistance and survival.

We are currently seeking highly motivated and enthusiastic interns through the [Montana Space Grant Consortium](#) (MSGC) to join our team for a summer internship working in the lab and greenhouse. As a summer intern, you will work closely with a PhD student mentor. Join us in making a positive impact on the environment through groundbreaking research!

Intern Responsibilities

1. Greenhouse: Collect leaf spectra and physiological data from various tree species in a controlled greenhouse environment.
2. Lab: Process and prepare samples for analysis of non-structural carbohydrate content, including grinding and weighing tree tissues.
3. Data Analysis: Process and analyze the collected leaf spectra and physiological data to identify patterns and correlations related to tree health and mortality.

Qualifications:

- Strong interest in plant physiological ecology research.
- Excellent communication and teamwork skills.
- Ability to work independently and take initiative.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.

Approx. 2 positions are located in Bozeman.

Application Deadline: February 28, 2026 (including letters of recommendation)

Apply here: https://spacegrant.montana.edu/student_research/internships.html - indicate preference for "[Plant Physiological Ecology Laboratory](#)" project

Contact: Danielle.Ulrich@montana.edu