Graduate Research Fellowship at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Arctic Vegetation Science to begin June 2020

We seek a motivated PhD student to pursue a degree focused on arctic vegetation science and its application to ecological research themes related to a new NSF Navigating the New Arctic project, “Landscape Evolution and Adapting to Change in Ice-Rich Permafrost Systems.” This project seeks to increase our understanding of these systems and their connection to the human, built and natural environments in Alaska and across the Arctic. The successful candidate will be advised by Dr. Skip Walker (arctic vegetation science), Dr. Amy Breen (arctic ecology and evolution), and Dr. Anja Kade (arctic trace gas fluxes, ecosystem ecology).

The PhD candidate will:

- Sample, map, and analyze natural vegetation in Arctic Alaska
- Apply these data to issues of changing permafrost, trace-gas fluxes, biodiversity, and climate
- Apply research findings to issues related to village infrastructure and oil fields in northern Alaska
- Work with a multi-disciplinary team of researchers that includes permafrost scientists, hydrologists, engineers, and other vegetation scientists

Desired skills and experience include:

- Knowledge of vascular plant, moss, and lichen morphology, field identification, and taxonomy
- Familiarity with vegetation mapping, GIS, and remote sensing
- Analysis of vegetation data using ordination methods and other multivariate approaches
- Outdoor experience and ability to be comfortable in arctic environments
- Other training in arctic systems including permafrost, soils, geology, periglacial environments, arctic wildlife

This position is fully funded for four years through a combination of research and teaching assistantships. The fellowship includes tuition and fees for the UAF Arctic Alaska Vegetation, Permafrost, and Ecosystems field course in June 2020.

To express interest, please send a brief statement of interest, your CV, and an undergraduate transcript and GRE scores (if available), to the contacts below. Full applications are due to the University of Alaska Fairbanks Department of Biology and Wildlife by January 15, 2020.

Contacts:

Dr. Skip Walker (dawalker@alaska.edu)
Dr. Amy Breen (albreen@alaska.edu)