**Job title:** Undergraduate Research Assistant in Stream Ecology

**Location:** Department of Ecology, Cross Lab, Montana State University – Bozeman, MT

**Duration:** Academic Year 2025–2026 (*September–May*), with potential to extend based on performance and funding

**Hours:** Part-time (*15-20 hours/week*)

**Pay:** $15.93/hour (with potential increases based on performance)

**Apply by:** September 5, 2025

**Position Overview:**

Are you interested in gaining hands-on experience in aquatic ecology? Join our team as an undergraduate research assistant to contribute to important ecological research examining how stream communities respond to drought and warming. This position supports graduate student research in [The Cross Lab](https://www.montana.edu/wcross/index.html) at Montana State University, as part of a collaborative effort to understand the ecological response of environmental change on freshwater ecosystems. Research assistants will gain hands-on lab experience and contribute directly to meaningful research in stream ecology.

**Key Responsibilities:**

We are seeking motivated, detail-oriented undergraduates to assist with processing aquatic invertebrate samples in a laboratory setting. Primary tasks include:

* Sorting and picking aquatic invertebrates from stream samples using a microscope
* Maintaining accurate records of processed samples
* Ensuring quality and consistency in data collection
* Working independently and following established lab protocols

This role provides flexible working hours to accommodate academic schedules and offers an excellent opportunity to develop skills in laboratory techniques and exposure to graduate-level research and ecological methods.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

* Current undergraduate student at MSU
* Interest in ecology, environmental science, natural resources, or related fields
* Strong attention to detail and organizational skills
* Strong communication skills and professionalism
* Self-motivated and comfortable working independently
* No prior lab experience required—training will be provided

**How to Apply:**

Email Allison Sutcliffe at Allison.sutcliffe@montana.edu with the subject line:

**“Research Assistant Application”**. Please include the following:

* Cover letter (1 page or less): Introduce yourself, describe your academic background, and explain why you’re interested in this position.
* Resume or curriculum vitae
* Contact information for 3 references (name, email, phone)
* Unofficial university transcript

**Have questions about the position? Feel free to reach out.**