Job posting for Cross lab technician for summer and fall of 2025

**General job title:** Undergraduate research assistant

**Job description:** Undergraduate research student will support the Cross lab's West Fork Gallatin River research project. The Cross lab is conducting a yearlong monitoring program where eight West Fork Gallatin River sites are visited once every two weeks when water quality parameters will be collected. In addition to the biweekly visits, sites will be visited once a month to collect algae, aquatic macroinvertebrates, and stable isotope data. Each site visit will require 2-6 hours of sample equipment preparation (the week before sampling), a between 8-12 hour field day (a sample day), and a following 8-16 hours of sample post-processing in the laboratory (the week of sampling). The technician will be trained and accompanied by Russell Conti (a current graduate student), who will teach them how to conduct equipment preparation, sample collection, and post-sample processing. Additional opportunities are available for students interested in data analysis and geospatial contributions to the project, although this contribution is not required.

**Primary Responsibilities:** The student's tasks will include cleaning and sterilizing sampling equipment, organizing and preparing sampling equipment for field days, assisting in collecting field samples, and analyzing samples within the laboratory. Additional opportunities for the student include performing moderately complex research tasks such as operating semi-specialized equipment and compiling, evaluating, and assessing research results. Exploration of these additional opportunities will depend on the student's ability level and interest in partaking in these tasks.

**Qualifications:** Current sophomore to senior level MSU students studying natural sciences (Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, Ecology, etc.) curious to better understand aquatic habitats and how human influences alter freshwater systems. Ideally, this student has some personal or cultural connection to the Gallatin watershed, or this student is willing to explore how they are connected to their watershed on a deeper level than the river being a recreational resource or water supply.

**Application requirements:** Please provide a simple resume that outlines; a few sentences introducing yourself, your current major at MSU, your current GPA,  a phone number for a personal recommendation and their relationship to you, a list of the last 1-3 jobs you worked and describe them in 3-4 sentences outlining what you did and how your work influenced your community (if you worked at Taco Bell that's awesome, tell me how that provided for your community.) Lastly, I would like you to write a maximum of 200-word statement about how water has impacted your life, and why you want to work on the water in the Gallatin River.

**Pay rate and hourly expectation:** The base pay for this job is $15.929/hr, with opportunities to increase the pay rate based on performance. This position can pay up to 20 hours per week. The goal start date for this position is early May, and it will go through until October 2025. Further mentorship is available to the student through undergraduate research and aid in navigating funding opportunities if efforts are initiated and spearheaded by the undergraduate student.

**Email application to Russell Conti at** **russellconti24@gmail.com** **as soon as possible but no later than April 20th. I look forward to hearing from you!**