

M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship Great Basin Native Fish Ecology, Conservation, and Management

University of Nevada, Reno – Nevada Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Responsibilities – We are seeking an M.S. student to investigate the ecology of the newly described Wall Canyon Sucker (*Catostomus murivallis*), an endemic to the dryland high desert ecosystem of the Great Basin in Northwest Nevada, USA. Understanding early life stages is critical to conservation efforts because larval growth and juvenile survival are key bottlenecks in fish populations. This project seeks to fill knowledge gaps about the sucker's reproductive ecology by investigating spawning timing, larval growth, and associations with stream flow and temperature regimes. We will also quantify predation by non-natives on suckers and other native fishes.

This project is funded by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the student will work closely with agency personnel. Fieldwork will be a large component of this research and will be conducted in a remote high desert setting. The incumbent will also work closely with the public, university, state, and federal cooperators, so strong communication skills will be critical to project success.



Photo credit: NDOW

Qualifications – B.S. in fisheries biology, aquatic ecology, or closely related field. Experience with sampling freshwater fishes and their habitats in the field is preferred. Interest in fish ecology, early life history, dryland ecosystems, and strong oral and written communication skills are required. Motivated, creative applicants with a strong work ethic and practical field and laboratory research experience will be highly competitive for this position.

Salary – Full support including stipend plus tuition waiver and student health benefits for 2.5 years.

Closing date – Position is contingent upon funding availability. Application review will begin 1 September 2025, expected start date is January 2026.

Contact – Send cover letter describing your professional interests and experience, CV, unofficial copies of transcripts, plus contact information for three references to: Dr. Jeff Falke (jfalke@unr.edu). Additional project information is available upon request.

Lab website – <https://freshwater-fish-ecology-lab-unr.github.io/ffelunr/index.html>.