MS or PhD Graduate Assistantship—Applied Soil Physics

*Department of Crop and Soil Sciences*
*Washington State University, Pullman, WA*

**Description of the Opportunity:**

Soil compaction has a profound impact on soil health by reducing agricultural productivity, reducing plant nutrient use efficiency through decreased rooting depths, increases the potential for runoff, and decrease the resilience of the soil during drought events. One MS or PhD graduate research assistantship is available beginning Summer or Fall 2022 Semester, or as soon as a suitable candidate is available, in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Washington State University, Pullman, WA, in the area of mitigating the impact of soil compaction on soil ecosystem services. The project is funded by the Foundation of Food and Agriculture Research and focuses on the interaction of plant roots and soil physical properties at the field-scale across multiple cropping systems including wheat, berries, and potatoes. This position will work with a multi-disciplinary team of soil scientists, crop physiologists, agricultural engineers, and extension specialists. Expected outcomes include publication of research in peer-reviewed journals, presentation of research at local and national meetings, and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students.

**Desired Qualifications:**

Applicants should hold an MS in Soil Science, Agronomy, or a related field. Experience with soil mapping techniques, computer programming (R), and agronomic systems are preferred but not required. Candidates should be self-motivated with strong communication skills (both written and oral) and the ability to work both individually and as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

**Contact:**

Interested candidates should contact Dr. Haly Neely at h.neely@wsu.edu or 509-335-0947.

**Apply:**

Interested persons should apply to the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences (CSS). Please visit CSS at [http://css.wsu.edu](http://css.wsu.edu). The priority application deadline for Fall 2022 entry is January 10, 2022.

**Assistantship Details:** Graduate assistantships (research and teaching) are formal half-time, academic-year appointments accompanied by a summer stipend, with annual compensation of $22,908 (MS) or $24,108 (PhD). Graduate assistants also receive tuition waivers, as well as comprehensive health (medical/dental) insurance, and are eligible for additional support through scholarships, fellowships and travel grant awards. Qualifying recruits may be eligible for the prestigious ARCS fellowship of $17,500 beyond the base assistantship stipend.