



Master's thesis position

Vegetation change in the last 100 years on mountain tops in Davos

We seek a Master's student to join a study on vegetation change in the nival mountain zone.

The Davos region has been an important site for scientific research for more than a century. Over this period, a lot of data on the distribution of plant species have been collected. We plan to re-visit mountain tops that had been recorded by botanists in the last century and to document which plant species grow there today. The comparison between former and present plant assemblages, combined with information on climate and land-use, will allow us to analyze vegetation changes in the Alpine over the last decades.

Physical fitness and the ability and confidence to move in alpine terrain are necessary for the position, as access to the sites is mainly on foot. Previous knowledge of the Swiss plant species is desirable, and willingness to rapidly learn the alpine flora absolutely necessary (approx. 300 plant species).

The Master's students will join a team of researchers at the WSL Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF, Christian Rixen, Sonja Wipf, Veronika Stöckli). The thesis should start in spring/summer 2010. It will also be possible that two students work on related topics. Working place is Davos, Switzerland (http://www.slf.ch/ueber/organisation/oekosystem/alpine/index_EN). For more information about the position and application procedure, please contact Christian Rixen (rixen@slf.ch, 081-417-02-14) or Sonja Wipf (wipf@slf.ch, 081-417-02-76).



WSL Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF)
Research Unit 'Ecosystem Boundaries', Team 'Alpine Ecosystems'
Flüelastrasse 11, CH-7260, Davos