The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Utah State University invites applications for a PhD-level graduate research assistantship beginning August 1, 2014. This opportunity is part of a multi-year, NSF funded study aimed at understanding water resources sustainability in the urbanizing Wasatch Front (see www.iutahepscor.org for more information). A key portion of the student’s research will be to investigate groundwater/surface water interactions within the three iUTAH research watersheds. Primary research topics include understanding the role of groundwater/surface water interactions in interpreting surface water quality measurements made along mountain to urban gradients; understanding influences on nutrient fate and transport; and quantifying these interactions at different spatial (100 m, 1 km, 10 km) and temporal (daily, monthly, seasonal) scales.

Candidates should have completed a M.S. preferably in engineering, however those with watershed sciences, hydrology, or related fields will also be considered. Prior field experience is required and the candidate must be able to work in adverse conditions for extended time periods. Although the home department is Civil and Environmental Engineering at USU, the incumbent will be expected to work in an interdisciplinary, cross-institutional research team that includes researchers from Brigham Young University, the University of Utah, and Utah State University. Faculty from these institutions are likely committee members and potential co-advisors. Prospective students should contact Dr. Bethany Neilson (bethany.neilson@usu.edu) or Dr. Michelle Baker (michelle.baker@usu.edu) for more information; please include a current resume and statement of research interests with your inquiry. Application deadline had been extended to March 15, 2014.

Why Utah? The Wasatch Front of Northern Utah offers a stunning landscape for work (and play). The Wasatch/Cache National Forest provides unlimited outdoor recreation year-round. Housing costs are lower than the national average, and there are diverse cultural opportunities. Northern Utah is a short trip from the most scenic National Parks in the USA, including Zion, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Arches, Capitol Reef, Grand Teton, Great Basin, and Yellowstone.