Position #: 2016-005

M.S. Assistantship - Restoration Potential of Retired Catfish Ponds as Moist-Soil Wetlands

School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Arkansas at Monticello

The School of Forestry & Natural Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello is seeking applicants for a M.S. Assistantship available beginning August 16, 2016. The assistantship is half time and carries an annual stipend of $15,000 plus tuition.

Project: Models of energetic carrying capacity are used at the regional level to facilitate management of available food-energy on the landscape. Energy assignments are allocated across private and public lands to ensure adequate energy is available to sustain the projected population of wintering waterfowl. Actively managed moist-soil wetlands can be energetically rich foraging habitats for wintering ducks, and they are a key component for land managers in providing energy demands. In recent years, fish farming operations have been converting ponds to moist-soil wetlands through the Conservation Reserve Program. The purpose of this work is to document the restoration potential of retired fish ponds converted to moist-soil wetlands for wintering waterfowl. Experimental treatments will be used and tested to determine how to maximize food availability for waterfowl. Particular objectives of this research are flexible depending on the interests of the successful candidate.

Requirements: Applicants must have a 2.7 overall undergraduate GPA or 3.0 GPA in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate courses and satisfactory GRE scores. A B.S. degree in a natural resources-related field is also required. Applicants must have a valid U.S. driver’s license or obtain the same within 60 days of starting employment. Overnight travel is required as well as the ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

Location and Facilities: The School of Forestry & Natural Resources is located in Monticello, Arkansas in the southeastern portion of the state. The Arkansas Forest Resources Center is also headquartered here, and is administered by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. The Arkansas Forest Resources Center is the research and extension arm for forest-based programs within the State. Additionally, the USFS Arkansas Forestry Sciences Lab is located at the School. The School and Center maintain several state-of-the-art laboratories (hydrology, soil, quantitative analysis, silviculture, wildlife ecology & management) available for graduate research and education.

Application & Additional Information: Graduate program and application information can be found at [http://www.uamont.edu/sfnr](http://www.uamont.edu/sfnr). Applicants must be admitted to the University of Arkansas at Monticello and apply to the School of Forestry & Natural Resources before they can be considered for an assistantship. Applicants must submit all GRE scores, official transcripts, a statement of interests, and three letters of recommendation. Please indicate the position number above on all application materials and inquires. For additional information, please contact:

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The position is available until a qualified applicant is selected.

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