Graduate Research Assistantship (Ph.D.) in Forest Ecosystem Services and Policy

The School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine is seeking a highly-qualified Ph.D. student for forest and conservation policy research. The specific project is focused on developing the Maine Integrated Forest Ecosystem Services (MIFES) decision support tool to analyze natural resource and conservation policy.

Responsibilities: The graduate assistant will be responsible for collating and analyzing data, contributing to the MIFES model development, and drafting peer-reviewed publications. Potential research includes (1) quantifying the current stock and flow of Maine’s forest ecosystem services (FES), (2) developing a spatially explicit integrated decision support tool to analyze ecological and socio-economic impacts of natural resource policy, and (3) identifying policy options to facilitate efficient and cost-effective pathways to implement conservation plans, improve land management, and promote sustainable practices that enhance Maine’s economy and socio-ecological resilience.

Qualifications: A M.S. degree in forestry, economics, or statistics (or quantitatively focused environmental or social science degree along with a background in natural resource management). A high GPA, strong GRE scores, and solid writing and communication skills are essential. Experience with statistical analysis, GIS, and computer programming is preferred. The ideal candidate will have a degree in one of the above fields, experience with quantitative analysis, a proven ability to work independently, an eagerness for research, and demonstrated scholastic success. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Assistantship: This position provides 3 years of funding for a 20 hour/week assistantship ($~19,000/year), 50% of health insurance paid, and a tuition waiver for the University of Maine. Office space and operating support (e.g. use of a laptop, funds for some travel) are also included.

About the University of Maine School of Forest Resources (SFR, http://forest.umaine.edu): With almost 90% of the state covered by forest, forest resources are central to Maine’s quality of life and economy. The SFR provides essential forestry education and research and is a signature area of the University of Maine. Approximately 60 graduate students are currently enrolled in M.F., M.S., and Ph.D. programs within the SFR. The University has over 11,000 students and is the state’s flagship research institution.

To apply: Please submit a cover letter explaining your interest in the position, your qualifications, and research areas of interest, a CV that includes contact information for three references, university transcripts and GRE scores (electronic copy preferred) to:

Adam Daigneault, Ph.D.
EL Giddings Assistant Professor of Forest, Recreation and Conservation Policy
5755 Nutting Hall
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469-5755
adam.daigneault@maine.edu

Application review will begin February 21 and continue until the position is filled.

The University of Maine does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status and gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 North Stevens Hall, 207.581.1226.