FUNDED GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP OPPORTUNITY in human dimensions of forest management and landscape ecology - MS or PhD

I’m seeking an individual interested in pursuing either a MS or PhD in partnership with an interdisciplinary project focused on forest management and landowner decision-making across multiple stakeholders. The assistantship is available through the Department of Natural Resources & the Environment at University of Connecticut. Planned start date is August 2020; a May 2020 start date may be possible. Both prospective MS and PhD students are encouraged to apply; the best-fit candidate will be selected. Application review will begin March 1, 2020, and continue until a candidate is selected.

Within the general theme, there is flexibility in the specific focus of the thesis or dissertation topic, to be determined based on the interests of the selected applicant. Potential examples may include decision-making about land conservation and elements thereof (e.g., wildlife habitat, insect and pest outbreaks, roadside forests, future climate variability), community outreach, or application of spatial social science and land cover data to decision-support tools and forest management policy as related to various forest management stakeholder groups. Such stakeholders may include forestland and woodlot owners, land trusts, non-profit groups, tree wardens, utilities, recreationists, residents, and public land managers, among others. Existing data collected during past and ongoing related project efforts are available for use. Applicants should have: 1) a background in natural resources, forest management, human dimensions of natural resources, and/or landscape ecology, 2) interest in basic and applied research focused on the integration of human dimensions of forest management data within a landscape context, and 3) the ability to work both independently and as part of a research team. The student will be expected to present research results at professional conferences, publish research results in peer-reviewed scientific outlets, and pursue extramural funding to supplement their assistantship, as appropriate.

For all applicants, a working knowledge of GIS and experience working in human dimensions are preferred but not essential. For prospective PhD students, preferred experiences include completion of a MS degree and evidence of contribution of research results to peer-reviewed journals. For prospective MS students, completion of a Bachelor’s degree is required; preferred experiences include further research experience and/or at least one year of post-Bachelor’s experience working in a natural resource- or environmental-related field.

Interested students are encouraged to send: 1) a cover letter describing their professional background, relevant research experience and interests, career goals, and reasons for seeking a MS or PhD degree, 2) names and contact information for three references, 3) a current curriculum vitae, and 4) copies of transcripts and GRE scores directly to me (Anita Morzillo; anita.morzillo@uconn.edu) as a single *.pdf document. Unofficial copies of transcripts and GRE scores are sufficient for initial contact. GRE scores must be less than five years old, and are required for acceptance into the program. Potential students must have received a GPA equivalent to a 3.0/4.0 in the last 90 term (or 60 semester) hours of their Bachelor’s program. Do not submit materials to the UConn Graduate School at this time. Interested individuals may learn more about my research program at http://anitamorzillo.weebly.com/ Further information about the UConn Department of Natural Resources and the Environment may be found at http://www.nrme.uconn.edu/