The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia, Athens, invites applications from highly motivated and enthusiastic potential Ph.D. students starting in Spring/Summer 2022. This multi-agency project is a collaborative effort between the Southern Pine Health Research Cooperative (https://southernpinehealth.org) at the Warnell School and the Jones Center at Ichauway (http://www.jonesctr.org). The Ph.D. research will focus on the applied ecology and management of Ips bark beetles in southern pine forests with a focus on cutting-edge and novel modeling techniques. Extensive fieldwork in the southeastern region and lab work will be required. The ideal candidate will possess a strong background in entomology, ecology, and statistics with an independent spirit to develop, conduct, and publish research. A M.S. in a related field, especially in forest ecology and entomology is a prerequisite for the position. A competitive salary and benefits package will be provided for three years.

The involved faculty will be Drs. Elizabeth McCarty, Kamal Gandhi, and Kier Klepzig. The student will work with the Forest Health Laboratory (https://www.warnell.uga.edu/people/faculty/dr-elizabeth-benton) and the Forest Entomology Laboratory (https://kjgandhi.wixsite.com/gandhi-lab) at the University of Georgia. These labs are dynamic groups that work on a broad range of ecological issues, forest insect species, and ecosystems across the country. Southern Pine Health Research Cooperative, as funded by private forest companies and USDA Forest Service, provides leadership in managing major pests and pathogens using rigorous applied research with practical solutions in the southeastern pine forests. The mission of the Jones Center is to understand, demonstrate and promote excellence in natural resource management and conservation of southeastern coastal plain ecosystems.

The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources (http://www.warnell.uga.edu/) is the oldest forestry school in the South, has >70 faculty working in diverse fields, and provides exemplary training of students in the fields of forestry, ecology, and conservation biology. The School is housed in a four-building complex on campus, and has >23,000 acres in the state for research, teaching, and service activities. The University of Georgia (http://www.uga.edu/) is a land-grant and sea-grant university, and is also the state's oldest, most comprehensive and diversified institution of higher education. Its motto is: "to teach, to serve and to inquire into the nature of things, and reflects the University's integral and unique role in the conservation and enhancement of the state's intellectual, cultural, and environmental heritage. The University of Georgia is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer.

Interested personnel should submit a statement of interest, current CV along with contact information for three references to Dr. McCarty (elizabeth.mccarty@uga.edu; 706-389-9725).