

\*\*\* OUTREACH NOTICE \*\*\*

Research Ecologist (post-doc), GS-0408-11/12

\*\*\*Please respond ASAP\*\*\*

This outreach is to inform potential applicants that the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station ([www.nrs.fs.fed.us](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us)) will soon be advertising for two post-doctoral research ecologists (GS-0408-11/12; salary range \$62,236 – \$74,596), where grade level will be based on level of education and experience. The positions will be located at the Institute for Applied Ecosystems office in Rhinelander, WI. The positions will be located at the Institute for Applied Ecosystems office in Rhinelander, WI ([www.nrs.fs.fed.us/units/iaes/](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/units/iaes/)). The successful candidates will become members of an interdisciplinary team of landscape ecologists, hydrologists, and spatial modelers to engage policy-makers and resource managers in participatory modeling to develop plausible but contrasting land-use scenarios over the next century to bracket the range of potential futures for watersheds supplying the upper Great Lakes. Scenarios will be simulated by coupling land-use change and hydrologic models to the LANDIS-II landscape model ([www.landis-ii.org](http://www.landis-ii.org)), with outcomes evaluated in terms of the magnitude and spatial distribution of (1) direct human uses of the landscape, (2) ecosystem services (e.g., carbon storage, flood regulation, sediment and nutrient retention), and (3) habitat quality for regionally threatened and endangered native species. Model outputs will be shared with partners, stakeholders, and the general public via an interactive web-based visualization tool and both face-face and virtual workshops.

The two post-doc positions will support the above project via complimentary duties contingent on their respective areas of expertise:

- \* Analyses of large spatial datasets in water quality monitoring, land use and land cover (LULC) patterns and change, disturbances (both natural and anthropogenic), and water quality mitigation practices (e.g., agriculture BMPs, stormwater management, etc.).
- \* Forest disturbance and succession modelling across watersheds feeding into either Lake Superior or Lake Michigan, including integration of LULC trends and scenarios, climate change scenarios, forest management practices, and natural disturbances such as insects, fire, and wind.
- \* Hydrologic modelling of water quality variables linked to the above empirical analyses and simulated alternative scenarios (described below).
- \* Develops literature-based and/or empirical habitat suitability models for both terrestrial and aquatic species of regional concern.
- \* Formal engagement of a community network of place-based experts, land planners, and policy experts, and other stakeholders within a participatory modelling framework designed to design contrasting but plausible alternative futures for selected watershed basins draining into the upper Great Lakes.
- \* Performs work that is focused around spatially-detailed landscape models. Collaborates with scientists to calibrate, align, regulate, and substantiate the models and employs these models on diverse geographical expanses to investigate socioecological interactions or relationships affecting ecosystem services.

The following link connects to a document that provides the basic requirements to qualify for the various grade levels in the professional and scientific series;

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/#url=GS-PROF>

\*\*\*Contact Information\*\*\*

To express interest in this position please send an email to Dr. Brian Sturtevant, Principle Investigator, [brian.r.sturtevant@usda.gov](mailto:brian.r.sturtevant@usda.gov).

Once the announcement is posted, all respondents to this outreach notice will be contacted by email with the vacancy announcement number to submit their application through the U.S. Government's official website for employment opportunities at [www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com).

\*\*\*About the Location\*\*\*

Rhineland, WI (Home of the Hodag; pop. 7,798) is located in the heart of Wisconsin's northwoods and lake country. The city is surrounded by national, state, and county parks and forests that provide multiple recreational opportunities year-round such as boating, fishing, camping, mountain-biking, and hiking activities in the summer months to snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and ice-fishing in the winter months ([www.travelwisconsin.com/northeast](http://www.travelwisconsin.com/northeast)). Rhineland is surrounded by 232 lakes within 15 minutes of downtown, and is known as the "Ice Fishing Capital of the World".

The Institute for Applied Ecosystem Studies is located in Rhineland that is centrally-located with respect to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest ([www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf/)). The Institute for Applied Ecosystem Studies webpage has additional details about our research ([www.nrs.fs.fed.us/units/iaes/](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/units/iaes/)).

Additional information about Rhineland and neighboring cities within the northwoods can be found at:

[www.rhinelandchamber.com](http://www.rhinelandchamber.com)

[www.ExploreRhineland.com](http://www.ExploreRhineland.com)

[www.townofminocqua.org](http://www.townofminocqua.org)

[www.eagleriver.org](http://www.eagleriver.org)

[www.ci.wausau.wi.us](http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us)

Brian R. Sturtevant

USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station

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