

**M.S. Assistantship:
Evaluating ecosystem services of wetland reserve easements**

**College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources,
University of Arkansas at Monticello**

The College of Forestry, Agriculture & Natural Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello is seeking applicants for a M.S. Assistantship available beginning August 16, 2020. The assistantship is half time and carries an annual stipend of \$15,000 plus tuition.

Project: Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE), formerly known as the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRE) and a component of the current Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, aim to restore forested bottomlands through cost-share and financial incentives to private landowners to voluntarily retire marginal agricultural land into permanent easements. Evaluating potential trade-offs between supporting (e.g., wildlife habitat suitability), regulating (e.g., carbon sequestration and storage) and provisioning (e.g., timber production) services is one approach to assessing WRE restoration success rates. The student's project will: (1) quantify above-ground carbon stores and timber yield (i.e., potential merchantable volume) from existing ground-based inventory data; and (2) evaluate potential trade-offs among wildlife habitat suitability, carbon stores, and timber production services. The new graduate student work will be part of a larger funded project and will build on the work currently in progress.

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 College of Forestry, Agriculture & 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: Applicants must be admitted to the University of Arkansas at Monticello (<http://www.uamont.edu/pages/admissions/admission-requirements/>) and apply to the College of Forestry, Agriculture & Natural Resources before they can be considered for an assistantship. To apply to the College of Forestry, Agriculture & Natural Resources, applicants must email a cover letter, resume, unofficial transcripts, GRE scores and contact information for three references to parris@uamont.edu. **Please indicate the position number above on all application materials and inquiries.**

For additional information, please contact: Dr. Mohammad M. Bataineh, Office: 870-460-1449, Email: bataineh@uamont.edu