**Ph.D. Assistantship: Quantitative Ecology and Forest Regeneration at Mississippi State University (MSU)**

**Deadline:**

3/31/2021 – 12:00pm

**Employer:**

Mississippi State University (Dr. Joshua J. Granger)

**Job Field:**

Other

**Job Type:**

Assistantship

**Location:**

MSU (Starkville, MS)

**Job Description:**

The Ph.D. student would work with Dr. Joshua Granger at MSU, and researchers from the College of Forest Resources at MSU and others from around the Southeast to explore techniques in regenerating and managing multi-cropped forest systems. In the Southeast, over 70% of all forested lands are privately owned, much of which have been historically managed for timber and pulpwood production. Recent market developments and low pine pulpwood prices have motivated many non-industrial private landowners to shift their management towards improving wildlife habitat rather than managing exclusively for timber production. Towards this goal, many of these landowners have become increasingly interested in growing multi-cropped systems to enhance wildlife habitat. This is viewed as an excellent opportunity to improve wildlife habitat on the landscape, as oftentimes landowners are interested in incorporating hard- and soft-mast producing trees and shrubs, which, in turn, increase and diversify food resources and stand structure for a variety of wildlife species compared to single species monocultures. Unfortunately, the lack of technical guidance surrounding viable multi-cropped system techniques has substantially limited habitat restoration and forest management success for many forest landowners in the Southeast. Therefore, there is a critical need to advance techniques for establishing and managing multi-cropped systems.

The selected candidate would develop a dissertation to compare the productivity of multi-cropped systems for the enhancement of wildlife habitat in southern plantations and determine species-specific relationships and mechanisms that effect the success of multi-cropped systems. Given the nature of this project, the candidate would have project-specific deliverables that must be fulfilled but would be given wide latitude to pursue an array of independent research questions. It would be expected that the candidate would publish peer-reviewed manuscripts, with manuscripts ready for publication prior to graduation, and they would be required to present their research at several professional venues. The candidate will also work closely with stakeholders to disseminate findings.

**Qualifications:**

Minimum qualifications:

1. M.S. in forestry, quantitative ecology, wildlife ecology, or related fields.
2. Knowledge of GIS/geospatial analysis in R, statistics and modeling.
3. Excellent verbal and written communication skills and ability to work in an interdisciplinary research group.

Highly Desirable:

1. Record of peer-reviewed publications
2. Spatiotemporal modeling experience (e.g., spatial statistics and time series)
3. Experience working with and managing large heterogeneous data sets

**Salary:**

Competitive stipend with tuition waiver

**How to Apply:**

Contact person:

Please submit a cover letter that outlines your interests and qualifications, a current CV, and the names and contact information for three potential references. Review of applications will begin on April 1 and continue until a qualified candidate is identified. Please address any questions to Joshua Granger at joshua.j.granger@msstate.edu.

MSU is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy, gender identity, status as a U.S. veteran, and/or any other status protected by applicable law. We always welcome nominations and applications from women, members of any minority group, and others who share our passion for building a diverse community that reflects the diversity in our student population.