Graduate Assistant Announcement
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries

Ph.D. in Natural Resources
Emphasis: Wetland Ecology
Contact: Matthew J. Gray, Ph.D.
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http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/personnel/mgray.htm

Evaluating the state of ecological restoration on reforested wetland sites

This project will develop methodology to quantify the state of ecological restoration on reforested Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) sites. Activities will include measurement and comparison of vegetation, amphibian and avian communities, wetland hydrology, and several abiotic environmental variables between 15 reforested WRP easements and 5 undisturbed wetland reference sites in west Tennessee. This information will be used to develop index of biotic integrity (IBI) models. These models will enable biologists to efficiently monitor the state of restoration on reforested wetland sites. The candidate will lead the field investigation, analysis of data and publication of results. In addition, they will participate in the development of a NRCS technical manual, organization of 2 workshops, and creation of a website to deliver project results and train biologists in the use of IBI models.

Qualifications:

M.S. in ecology, wildlife biology or a science-related field before 1 January 2007. The candidate should have previous experience in wetland systems and a strong interest in restoration ecology. Modeling skills and field experience with plant, bird and amphibian communities will be assets. The candidate also must have a strong work ethic and be able to endure the physical demands of fieldwork in the southeastern United States. The individual will be a member of the University of Tennessee Wetlands Program, must have a pleasant demeanor, and be able to work in teams and independently. Motivation and a passion for research are critical personality traits.

Interested individuals should send a letter of interest outlining their past experiences and career goals, curriculum vitae, copies of GRE scores and transcripts, and a list of references to: Dr. Matthew Gray, University of Tennessee, 274 Ellington Plant Sciences Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4563. Application deadline is 29 November 2006, with a January 2007 start date.

Salary:

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville can offer a competitive Ph.D. research assistantship package totaling $25,500 per year. This includes a 12-month stipend of $1,500/month, paid tuition, and health insurance for the candidate.