

M.S. Assistantship: Does Adaptive Flood Management in Greentree Reservoirs Improve Red Oak Seedling Survival and Health?

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, 2024. The assistantship is half time and carries an annual stipend of \$18,000 plus tuition.

Project: Greentree reservoirs (GTRs), wetland forests with human-controlled hydroperiods, provide a variety of ecosystem services, including habitat for migratory waterfowl. Red oak species are key components of these ecosystems, but are threatened by current management practices. Studies are needed to test potential sustainable management practices for GTRs. The MS student's thesis research will include field studies and possibly controlled environment studies to better understand the interactive effects of temperature, flood, and dormancy on oak health and root physiology. Studies will answer questions that are not only key to improving GTR management, but also invaluable for restoration of bottomland hardwood forests with natural hydroperiods. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to learn relevant research techniques, and to interact with representatives from state and federal conservation agencies working to develop scientifically informed management recommendations for GTR forests.

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 US Forest Service Arkansas Forestry Sciences Lab is located at the College. The College 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: Graduate program information can be found at <https://www.uamont.edu/academics/CFANR/grad-degrees.html>. Applicants must apply to the College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources at <https://cfanr.embarck.com/apply/graduateschool2023>. You will be required to submit application information, unofficial transcripts, a statement of interest, and three references. Applicants must be admitted to the University of Arkansas at Monticello and apply to the College of Forestry, Agriculture & Natural Resources before they can be considered for an assistantship. For application assistance, contact Rhonda Parris at parris@uamont.edu. For position information, contact Dr. Benjamin Babst, babst@uamont.edu, (870) 460-1348.