Outdoor recreation and cultural services:
Testing a survey for long-term monitoring of outdoor recreation, cultural services, and public land management preferences.

**M.S. Research Assistantship**
School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
Auburn University
With Dr. Wayde Morse

Outdoor recreation is the primary interaction many people have with the environment - and one that greatly contributes to human well-being. However, there is a diversity of human interactions with public lands that may not fit into the traditional activities view of outdoor recreation such as; cultural heritage, spiritual or religious experiences, education and learning, aesthetics and inspiration. These interactions with our lands have more recently fallen under the term of cultural services in the ecosystem services paradigm. Furthermore, there is currently very little data available on changing public sentiments about how public lands are planned and managed. In addition to information on cultural services, information on public values, attitudes and beliefs regarding natural resources management would provide a more holistic perspective of how the public interacts with the land. The purpose of this research assistantship is to develop and test the data collection tools for gathering information that can provide national long-term monitoring of outdoor recreation, cultural services, and public land management preferences to inform public agency planning and decision-making.

**One M.S. assistantship** is available to conduct research on national long-term monitoring of outdoor recreation, cultural services, and public land management preferences.

**Applicants should possess B.A. in:** Parks, Recreation & Tourism; Human Dimensions of Natural Resources; Conservation and Society; Conservation Social Sciences; Natural Resources Management or related social science of the environment field. Undergraduate research experience is preferred. Applicants should have strong interpersonal skills and a strong independent work ethic. Peer reviewed publications are expected as a product of this research.

A stipend is available and pays $18,000. The project will begin in August 2020. A tuition waiver accompanies this assistantship. Details for application to the graduate school are available at: [http://www.grad.auburn.edu/](http://www.grad.auburn.edu/)

Review of applications will begin on May 1st and review will continue on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Interested applicants should send a 1 page cover letter (outlining qualifications for the project and how this specific social science position will further your career goals), resume, copies of transcripts and GRE scores (if available), and contact information for 2 references to: morsewc@auburn.edu

Additional information may be obtained by contacting
Dr. Wayde Morse at: morsewc@auburn.edu

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