Climate risk assessment and land use decision-making
on the Gulf Coast of Mexico

Ph.D. Research Assistantship
School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
Auburn University
With Dr. Wayde Morse

Watersheds draining to the northern Gulf of Mexico (GOM) are undergoing substantial changes in land use/land cover (LULC) related to changing land ownership, hurricanes and other factors. This project seeks to understand how perceptions of climate change and various socio-economic factors may change forest landowner decisions and ultimately reduce forest cover along the GOM. Our team will develop a coastal human-natural framework to predict future coastal ecosystems based on changing LULC, climate and other watershed conditions. Spatially-explicit landowner survey data will identify important factors influencing forest land owner decisions and ultimately 30-yr LULC scenarios.

One Ph.D. assistantship is available to conduct research as part of an interdisciplinary group on climate risk assessment and land use decision-making on the Gulf Coast of Mexico.

Applicants should possess M.S. in: Natural Resources Management, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Conservation and Society, Conservation Social Sciences or related social science of the environment field. Research experience with interviews and survey methodology is preferred. Publication record is preferred. Applicants should have strong interpersonal skills and a strong independent work ethic.

A stipend is available and pays $22,000. 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/ 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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