

Position Description: Post-Doctoral Fellow in Climate-smart Forestry

Job Description:

The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University is seeking a qualified individual for a postdoctoral Fellow to work on climate-smart forestry topics at Auburn University, in Auburn, Alabama. This is a joint research program initiated by the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and forest sector partners.

Carbon released into the atmosphere is becoming more influential to global climate change as population grows and the use of fossil fuels increases. Forestry can mitigate warming by managing for carbon sequestration through forest management and forest products utilization. As interest in forest-based natural climate solutions expands rapidly, we need to scientifically define the parameters of climate-smart forestry, understanding the range of management practices that lead to positive climate outcomes.

This joint research program is to establish the fundamental science needed to answer critical questions regarding the adaptation of desired forest management schemes and the use of forest products to mitigate global climate changes. The contribution of forests and forest-based products to mitigate global climate changes will be comprehensively investigated through state-of-the-art life cycle assessment techniques. Downstream forest-based products comprise many categories, each with varying degrees of climate impact and carbon storage capacity. A descriptive and quantitative life cycle assessment for each product category involving stakeholders, manufacturing partners, landowners, and policymakers will assist in defining how forestry and forest products can mitigate climate change.

In particular, this program aims to (1) develop applied research to build the scientific knowledge and infrastructure for society, business enterprises, and policymakers to recognize the significance of the forest ecosystem, forest management, and the forest sector supply chain to climate change; (2) better understand how to transfer the credit of carbon sequestration by the forest ecosystems to downstream forest-based products users, clients, and customers with associated incentives for implementation of beneficial forest practices or positive outcomes towards defined climate/forest carbon sequestration objectives. The Post-Doctoral Fellow will be responsible for designing and conducting climate-smart research that may also help to develop and refine current carbon measurement techniques or knowledge. Life cycle analysis of various forest product scenarios will be used to connect forest management with forest economics and policy.

This is a 24-month, limited-term non-tenure track position and is funded by the School of Forestry and Wildlife Science and external sources for up to two years. Continued employment is contingent on the availability of funding and satisfactory performance.

Minimum Qualifications:

Candidates must possess a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in forestry science, climate science, sustainability, wood science, or a closely related field at the time appointment begins. The successful applicant will demonstrate commitment to timely completion of deliverables, commitment to the publication of results in highly reputable peer-reviewed journals, and strong potential to work collaboratively with multiple stakeholders on a highly visible research topic. Excellent written, quantitative, and interpersonal communication skills are required.

In addition, the candidate selected for this position must be able to meet eligibility requirements to work in the United States at the time the appointment is scheduled to begin and continue working legally for the proposed term of employment.

Desired Qualifications:

Previous experience with forest management, life cycle assessment, carbon measurement and sequestration, forest economics and policy, and climate change is desirable.

Special Instructions to Applicants: Applicants must complete the online application at this link: <https://www.aemployment.com/postings/22574> to include a letter of interest, Curriculum vitae, names and contact information of three professional references and transcript (transcript should show conferral of Doctorate degree and date of conferral.)

Review of applications will begin June 15, 2021, and continue until the position is filled.

More information about the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences can be found at <https://sfws.auburn.edu/>. Further questions about the position should be addressed to Dr. Daowei Zhang (zhangd1@auburn.edu or 334-844-1067) and Yucheng Peng (yzp0027@auburn.edu; 334-844-1089).

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