

MS Position Available to Study Fire Ecology of Longleaf Pine Forests

An M.S. research assistantship is available with Dr. Heather Alexander (School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University) and Dr. Jeffery Cannon (Landscape Ecology Lab, Jones Center at Ichauway). The successful applicant will conduct extensive field research investigating spatial drivers of fuel composition, microclimate, and tree regeneration in a longleaf pine ecosystem and/or a variety of sites across the southeast. The research will combine field intensive fuel and regeneration data collection and processing, as well as micro-meteorological data collection and analysis. The student will be appointed as a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) but will assist with teaching undergraduate courses in Forest Fire Management (Spring 2021/2022) and Forest Ecology (Spring 2022). Although an M.S. student at Auburn University, the student's work will be co-sponsored by the Jones Center at Ichauway, and portions of the field work will take place in southwestern Georgia at the Jones Center, a 28,500-acre research facility and preserve in Newton, Georgia. The student will be expected to spend time in residence at the Jones Center for field data collection where housing may be provided, and remaining portions of the academic year on the Auburn campus while completing coursework.

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in forestry, plant physiology, ecology, wildlife sciences, or a related field. Applicants **must**: 1) be in excellent physical condition and capable of working long hours outdoors exposed to harsh weather, biting insects, and thorny vegetation, and 2) have a strong desire to pursue non-field related activities including data analysis and scientific writing. Previous experience with research, data analysis, and data management skills are preferred. Must also possess a current and valid driver's license and be able to drive a state vehicle. If interested, please email to Dr. Heather Alexander (heather.alexander@auburn.edu) and Dr. Jeffery Cannon (Jeffery.cannon@jonesctr.org) (1) a cover letter discussing interest in the research, qualifications, and applicable background experience; (2) a resume/CV; (3) unofficial transcripts, and (4) contact information for three professional references. Details on the full application process to the Auburn Graduate School can be found at <http://graduate.auburn.edu/prospective-students/application-instructions/>. Additional information on the Landscape Ecology Lab and the Jones Center can be found at <http://www.jonesctr.org/>. Financial support is available for two years, starting in fall 2021, and includes a stipend (\$18,000/year) and tuition waiver. Review of applications will begin Friday, February 26, 2021. Virtual interviews will begin Friday, March 12, 2021.