POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR – WILDLIFE ECOTOURISM

Location: DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION (WEC)
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (IFAS)
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32611-0430

Salary: COMMENSURATE WITH QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Position Open To:

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This is a 12-month, tenure-accruing position with 50% extension (Florida Cooperative Extension Service) and 50% research (Agricultural Experiment Station) responsibilities in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (WEC) on the main campus. This assignment may change in accordance with the needs of the unit. Extension duties include developing an issued-based education program in cooperation with other statewide and county faculty that offers target audiences information on wildlife ecotourism and ecosystem management in a landscape experiencing rapid human population growth, urbanization and agricultural development, as well as related international ecotourism resource use in Latin America and the Caribbean. Educational programs should target an array of audiences from private and public landowners to government planners. The successful candidate will be expected to conduct a strong, externally-funded research program in the field of wildlife ecotourism. Expertise areas of particular departmental interest may include one of the following: economic analysis or social and ecological valuation, nature-based tourism development and management, or wildlife recreation and ecosystem planning. The successful candidate will produce information that can be used to help solve issues addressed in Extension programming and will supervise graduate students.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates should possess an earned doctorate degree in wildlife ecology, resource economics, natural resource management, environmental valuation, resource recreation, or related field; excellent written and oral communication skills; and demonstrated ability to work effectively and efficiently with colleagues and students.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The University of Florida is located in Gainesville, a city of 90,000 residents in north central Florida. It is the state’s Land Grant and Sea Grant institution, with a student population of 41,000. A member of the prestigious American Association of Universities, the University conducts research, instruction, and extension outreach programs on the campus and throughout the state. The 111 master’s and 70 doctoral programs of the Graduate School rank the University of Florida as one of the nation’s most comprehensive major universities. A recent and exciting development at the University of Florida has been the creation of a College of Natural Resources and Environment. This College is a center for campus-wide academic programs in the natural resources. Most WEC faculty are also members of this College.

The programs of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, a unit of IFAS, emphasize biological and human dimensions of wildlife ecology and conservation in local to international arenas. The Department maintains a GIS laboratory and microcomputer network, the latter being linked to
other campus workstations and to the University’s mainframe computer. Also housed with the Department is the Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, whose principal focus is on wetlands wildlife and ecosystem restoration/conservation.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION (Continued):

The programs of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, a unit of IFAS, emphasize biological and human dimensions of wildlife ecology and conservation in local to international arenas. The Department maintains a GIS laboratory and microcomputer network, the latter being linked to other campus workstations and to the University’s mainframe computer. Also housed with the Department is the Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, whose principal focus is on wetlands wildlife and ecosystem restoration/conservation.

Several units on or in the vicinity of the University of Florida campus complement the teaching and research programs of the Department: Biotechnologies for Ecological, Evolutionary, and Conservation Sciences; Center for Latin American Studies; Center for Natural Resources; Center for Wetlands; Center for Biological Conservation; Florida Museum of Natural History; Northeast Regional Data Center; National Ecology Laboratory (Sirenia) of the National Biological Survey; Florida Field Station (Gainesville) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Research Laboratory; Southeastern Forest Experiment Station unit of the U.S. Forest Service; The Nature Conservancy; and Wildlife Research Laboratory of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Florida boasts a diversity of fauna and flora common to both southern temperate and subtropical climates, and is replete with springs, rivers, blackwater streams, lakes, freshwater and saltwater marshes, mangrove fringes, cypress swamps, hardwood hammocks, sandhills, scrub, pine flatwoods, and rangeland. Nested between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, Florida lays claim to more than 2,000 kilometers of coastal beaches and estuaries. Special features include the Florida Keys, which constitute an archipelago of picturesque subtropical islands, and the unique Everglades or “river of grass,” which sprawls across the vast southern peninsula. And, as a gateway to the Caribbean and Latin American, Florida provides convenient access to tropical environments, and an array of research possibilities.

APPLICATION: Applications should include: curriculum vitae, statements of professional goals and teaching philosophy, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three (3) professional references. All application materials must be received by **2000. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.** Please forward nominations, applications, and inquiries to:

REFER TO POSITION

Search and Screen Committee  
Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation  
PO Box 110430  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611-0430

Phone: (352) 846-  
Fax: (352) 392-6984  
E-mail:
Position: Assistant Professor of Human Dimensions of Wildlife

Responsibilities: The successful candidate will develop a nationally-recognized research and teaching program that applies cutting-edge theory and methods from the social sciences to illuminate the human dimensions of natural resources policy and management. Research (60%) should apply and advance contemporary social science theory to improve understanding of human behavior, social and institutional processes, and decision making associated with the conservation and management of natural resources. Use of quantitative methods is expected; additional attention to qualitative methods is desirable. Research should have a predominantly domestic emphasis, but may include an international component. Teaching responsibilities (40%) will include: (2) a senior-level advanced course in Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management, focused on theoretical constructs and applications; and (3) a graduate seminar appropriate to the field of wildlife management. Active contributions are expected to the undergraduate and graduate program, sharing leadership with other faculty for seminars, discussion groups, supervision of undergraduate and graduate student research, and related activities. Necessary to establishing a national reputation as a leading scholar, the individual hired into this position will secure external funding, mentor students, and contribute significantly to the natural resources and environmental policy and management literature through journal articles and other peer-reviewed publications. Collaboration with faculty, staff, and graduate students in the Department of WEC, other College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and UF departments, and with colleagues in other universities, agencies, and NGOs is expected as appropriate. Service to society through consultation, participation on committees, boards and councils and other outreach activities appropriate to the individual’s area of expertise is expected of all faculty.

Qualifications:

- Interdisciplinary background with Ph.D. and graduate majors/minors in applied social sciences related to natural resource and environmental management.
- Evidence of complementary education in ecological sciences is desirable to enhance opportunities for collaboration and communication with researchers and natural resource and environmental managers from disciplines outside the social sciences.
- Experience in teaching, student advising, and research related to this position, either post-doctoral or pre-doctoral.
- Evidence of ability to work with other researchers in interdisciplinary inquiry, and with natural resource managers in applied research settings.
- Demonstrated understanding of challenges and approaches in contemporary and future natural resource and environmental management.
- Evidence of scholarly productivity, including ability to attract extramural research support, coordinate and lead an innovative research program, and publish research findings in the peer-reviewed literature.
- Evidence of ability to apply and refine a variety of quantitative social science research techniques is required; additional evidence of experience with qualitative methods is desired.