



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Warnell School of Forestry
and Natural Resources

Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife,
Natural Resource Management and Sustainability,
Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management
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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: Graduate Research Assistant (Ph.D.)

Project: Decision Analysis to Assess Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Status, Risk, and Biosecurity Measures in National Parks in the Southeastern U.S.

Overview: We seek a Ph.D. student, beginning in August 2024, to use a decision analytic framework (i.e., structured decision making) to work collaboratively with National Park Service staff to evaluate biosecurity actions for AIS in national parks in the southeastern U.S. The project includes conducting a formal assessment of the status of AIS in three case study parks in the region and constructing species distribution models for AIS, in addition to helping coordinate and facilitate structured decision-making workshops for each park (determining objectives and biosecurity actions related to AIS in parks, evaluating the effects of potential actions, and assessing tradeoffs and risk associated with potential actions). The student will also aid in development and implementation of workshops to disseminate results to NPS staff, volunteers, and citizen scientists and create a guide for best practices for AIS biosecurity. The student will work with a team of researchers from UGA (USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health) and the USGS Wetland Science Center. The student may have the opportunity to serve as a teaching assistant, depending on interest and position availability. Additional responsibilities include presenting research results at scientific conferences and publishing in peer-reviewed literature. Other related duties may also be assigned as needs arise (e.g., required training, contribution to general operation of the research unit). Further, lab members are expected to help maintain a supportive collegiate environment.

Qualifications: Required – MS in Ecology, Natural Resources, Statistics, or related field.
Preferred – interest in invasive species management / population dynamics and structured decision making, strong networking and social skills, quantitative modeling experience, interest / experience working with managers and stakeholders.

Salary: approximately \$31,000 / year, plus full tuition waver.

To apply: Prior to applying to the Graduate School, qualified applicants should send a single email containing: 1) cover letter describing background, accomplishments, skills, and career aspirations, 2) a CV, 3) unofficial transcripts of college-level work, and 4) contact information for 3 professional references to Dr. Kelly Robinson (kfrobinson@uga.edu). Open until filled, but application review will begin May 20.