

Title: M.S. position in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, NSF-NRT: Enhancing Conservation Science and Practice at the University of Maine

Description: We are seeking an M.S. student with an interest in the human dimensions of natural resources. The successful candidate will join a National Science Foundation-funded graduate research traineeship program that will prepare the next generation of conservation leaders. Scholars in this program will integrate biophysical and social sciences in collaborative, engaged, and solutions-driven research, professional development, and coursework. The goal of the research traineeship program is to build a well-trained and experienced workforce to advance conservation solutions that will ultimately lead to enhanced resilience of socio-ecological systems in Maine and beyond.

The successful candidate's primary focus will be on informing landscape-scale conservation practice, using wetland management in the Northeastern U.S. as an exemplary social-ecological system. Research will examine legislative frameworks and governance arrangements, with an emphasis on understanding cross-scale linkages, spatial mismatches, and institutional flexibility, rigidity, and change. In collaboration with an interdisciplinary team of biophysical and social science researchers, the student will design and conduct social science research to understand wetland 'decision pathways' at multiple levels of governance that influence ecological, social, and economic outcomes. Social science research methods may include participant observations and interviews and focus groups with federal and state resource and regulatory agencies, municipal and community leaders, elected officials, and representatives of regional and local conservation and planning organizations. This research will support an on-going study of adaptive approaches to conserving small natural resources on private lands. Internship opportunities are an integral part of the research traineeship program and may include partnering with federal, state, or municipal governments, local land trusts, or other community or conservation organization. Students with an interest in stakeholder engagement, social science research, conservation science, natural resources policy, and environmental communication are encouraged to apply.

Qualifications: B.S./B.A. degree required at time of application. Course work or experience in social science research methods is highly desirable. Transdisciplinary research and active learning experiences are central to the program thus the applicant must demonstrate an interest in inter- and transdisciplinary research and a strong commitment to linking knowledge with action or practical conservation outcomes. It is important that the applicant is comfortable working in a team-based environment and has the ability to work with diverse stakeholders who may have different perspectives and agendas. Most importantly, the student must demonstrate strong motivation, resourcefulness, creativity, and a personal commitment and responsibility for their own scholarship and research. Students must be a U.S. citizen or permanent residents to receive support.

For further application and program details, visit our website: <http://umaine.edu/conservationscience>

Compensation: Competitive stipend and 100% health insurance

Closing date: Open until filled

Contact: Please send a letter of interest, resume, unofficial copy of your transcript, and contact information for three references to: Aram Calhoun, Professor of Wetland Ecology Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology at calhoun@maine.edu and Jessica Jansujwicz, Research Assistant Professor Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology jessica.jansujwicz@maine.edu