M.S. Assistantship: Belowground Production and Dynamics in Cellulosic Bioenergy Crops

The School of Forest Resources, University of Arkansas, Monticello has a M.S. Assistantship available beginning in the summer or fall of 2013. The assistantship is half time and carries a stipend of $15,000+tuition.

**Project:** The successful candidate will work on a USDA, AFRI funded project developing cottonwood/switchgrass agroforest systems for supplying cellulosic bioenergy feedstock in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (LMAV). The project is a coordinated effort between scientists in Arkansas and Louisiana. The MS assistantship will focus on belowground biomass (course and fine root) production and dynamics in bioenergy agroforests (cottonwood, switchgrass, and combined cottonwood/switchgrass cropping systems) compared to that in traditional agriculture ecosystems that are grown on marginal soils in the LMAV. In addition the successful candidate will quantify the contributions of belowground biomass to carbon sequestration of these crops. More information on the project can be found at the following link [http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/liechtyh/Bioenergy%20Agroforest.htm](http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/liechtyh/Bioenergy%20Agroforest.htm)

**Requirements:** A 2.7 overall undergraduate GPA or 3.0 GPA in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate courses and satisfactory GRE scores (verbal+quantitative ~1000). A B.S. degree in environmental science, biology, soils, agriculture, forestry or a related field is also required. Be able to drive an automobile in the U.S.

**Location:** The School of Forest Resources and Arkansas Forest Resources Center are regionally and nationally recognized for their Natural Resource Research and Education activities. The SFR and the AFRC performs research on a variety of topics and issues and is currently undergoing a $6 million dollar building expansion. The SFR has a number of high quality laboratories (water quality/soil, Spatial Analysis Laboratory, and wildlife management) that are utilized on a daily basis by graduate students.

**Contact Information:** For additional information or to apply contact Dr. Hal O. Liechty School of Forest Resources [http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/liechtyh/](http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/liechtyh/), UAM, P.O. Box 3468, Monticello AR 71656. Phone:870-460-1052, E-Mail: Liechty@uamont.edu. Graduate materials and information can be found at the following websites: [http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/sfr/graduate_education.htm](http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/sfr/graduate_education.htm)