

Position Announcement

Assistant Professor/Extension Specialist – Aquatic Plant Management and Restoration

College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences University of Minnesota

Position: Full-time tenure-track position (9 month- B-term appointment) with responsibilities as an extension specialist (60%), and for research (40%). This position will be in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology on the Twin Cities Campus and will be affiliated with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. The Center's mission is to develop biologically and economically sound solutions to control key aquatic invasive species (AIS) affecting Minnesota's waters.

Closing date: The search committee will begin reviewing applications on December 15, 2014 and the position will remain open until filled.

Responsibilities: This faculty member will be responsible for developing a new research and extension program aimed at advancing aquatic plant management and restoration approaches for lakes, rivers, and wetlands degraded by invasive plant species and other human-caused stressors. Research and outreach, including adult education efforts, will be developed synergistically and in cooperation with stakeholder groups (such as natural resource agencies and lakeshore associations), university research faculty, Extension Specialists and Educators statewide and nationally. We are interested in candidates who will use a combination of field-based and experimental approaches for aquatic plant control, restoration, and management. Example topics include AIS-induced ecosystem changes that affect management, responses of plant and animal communities to vegetation management treatments, food web changes in response to invasive plant control, and responses of AIS populations to control treatments. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing a research program capable of attracting graduate students and significant external funding.

Qualifications: REQUIRED: PhD by the time of appointment; demonstrated knowledge of and significant interest in control of invasive aquatic/wetland plants and in restoration of aquatic and wetland vegetation; interest in advancing practical science-based methods for control of invasive aquatic/wetland plants, revegetation of shoreline and littoral zones, and monitoring outcomes of management/restoration actions; experience and skill in designing and conducting applied research; strong written communication skills, including a demonstrated ability to publish in peer-reviewed scientific journals. PREFERRED: At least one degree in ecology, water resources, or plant biology; background in weed science or plant ecophysiology; experience conducting applied research in freshwater ecosystems; practical experience in aquatic vegetation research, management and restoration, including a sound understanding of the use of herbicides; experience collaborating with fisheries, wildlife or conservation science professionals; experience working with diverse audiences (such as natural resource professionals, citizen groups, landowners, culturally diverse populations) and non-formal adult audiences; excellent oral communications and presentation skills; demonstrated ability to synthesize and convey research findings and practical research applications face-to-face and in diverse publication formats and via communication/instructional technologies, such as the internet; demonstrated ability to secure and track research and outreach funding; ability to supervise and mentor research personnel including graduate students and postdoctoral associates.

Salary and benefits: Salary is competitive and commensurate with professional experience and qualifications. The position comes with research laboratory and shared space in a newly renovated AIS

holding and research facility. Fringe benefits include employee health, dental, and faculty life/disability insurance, social security, faculty retirement and opportunities for professional development.

Application: Submit materials online at: employment.umn.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=125119

Please attach 1) a cover letter, 2) detailed CV, 3) a 1 to 2 page statement of research goals and interests, 4) a 1 to 2 page statement of outreach goals and interests, 5) a statement of up to 300 words describing your interest in, experience with, and commitment to diversity and cultural competence and 6) contact information for three individuals who are providing a letter of reference. The three referees should submit letters directly to Becca Nash at nash0029@umn.edu.

For further information, please contact Dr. Ray Newman, Search Committee Chair, at 612-625-5704 or newma004@umn.edu. For assistance in uploading application materials, please contact Becca Nash at 612.624.7785 or nash0029@umn.edu.

As an institution committed to demonstrating excellence through diversity, the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and the University are committed to hiring a diverse faculty and staff, and actively encourages candidates from historically underrepresented groups to apply.