Position – Postdoctoral Research Associate (Mathematical Modeling of Ecological Systems and Optimal Decision Making for Conservation) – University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (Gainesville, FL)

Position Description: We are seeking a post-doctoral research associate to develop mathematical models of ecological systems and apply computational methods to solve conservation problems. The primary focus would be on ecological research related to the control and prevention of invasive species in the Everglades. The successful candidate would be working closely with scientists from the University of Florida and the USGS Southeast Ecological Science Center, and would have the opportunity to be involved in a number of additional high profile conservation projects (e.g., optimal decision making for marine mammal conservation, optimal reserve design under climate change, habitat management for meta-populations of birds and amphibians). The focus on optimization methods will be those suited to Markov decision processes, in which decisions are dynamic and outcomes are uncertain. The research associate may also contribute to new developments for the application of adaptive management for natural resource management. The team of collaborators would include: Dr. Christina Romagosa (UF, Assistant Professor, expertise in biological invasions), Dr. Fred Johnson (USGS, expertise in population ecology and decision science), Dr. Julien Martin (USGS, expertise in wildlife ecology and conservation), Dr. Mathieu Bonneau (UF, post-doctoral research associate, expertise in applied mathematics), Dr. Paul Fackler (NC State University, Professor, expertise in environmental and computational economics). He/she would be expected to participate in relevant workshops, present seminars at various venues, and publish their research findings in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Some travel is anticipated. No field work is required.

Qualifications: Applicants must hold a **Ph.D. in ecology, natural resource management, biometrics, natural resource economics, applied mathematics, statistics, operations research, or related field**. Excellent mathematical and programming skills are essential. Experience with programs such as R or Matlab is desirable. The best qualified applicants will also have exceptional reasoning and analytical skills, some familiarity with ecological systems, demonstrable communication skills, and the ability to function well both on their own and in teams. The selected candidate must be able to meet eligibility requirements for work in the United States at the time appointment is scheduled to begin and continue working legally for the proposed term of the appointment.

Compensation: This is a **full-time**, fixed-term, non-tenure-track appointment for up to 24 months (with possible extensions upon funding availability). Annual salary is $45,000 - $55,000 depending on education and experience. Benefits include health insurance options and paid

leave. Extension of the appointment for the second year is contingent on satisfactory performance. Note that Florida does not have a state income tax.

Enquiries: Contact **Dr. Christina Romagosa, at cmromagosa@ufl.edu or at 01-352-273-3996** for more information. Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume (or curriculum vitae), transcripts showing receipt of the doctoral degree, and three letters of professional references. The application deadline is **30 May 2015**. This position will remain open until filled.

Applicants may submit an unofficial copy of the transcripts; however, the final candidate will be required to provide official transcripts to the hiring department upon hire. A transcript will not be considered “official” if a designation of “Issued to Student” is visible. Degrees earned from an education institution outside of the United States are required to be evaluated by a professional credentialing service provider approval by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), which can be found at http://naces.org/.