

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANT SPECIALIST IN LAND CHANGE SCIENCE IN COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

The Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, at the University of California at Berkeley, seeks an Assistant Specialist (Fiscal Year) in Cooperative Extension in the area of Land Change Science, with an expected start date of March 1, 2013.

Position Description: The Land Change Science Specialist is expected to develop a strong program of applied research, outreach and education in the emerging area of Land Change Science, which embraces aspects of global environmental change, land use modeling, ecosystem sciences, resource economics, land management, planning and policy, geospatial sciences, and sustainability research. The Specialist would provide science-based solutions and bridge conflicting interests involved in land use with knowledge, targeted research, and local education regarding the relationships between expanding population and climate change, and the remaining matrix of wild landscapes, urban areas, working landscapes and agriculture. Finally, the incumbent would work to increase the scientific literacy of one of our most influential clientele groups: policy and decision makers.

Relevance to the ANR Strategic Vision: At the beginning of the 21st century, California is characterized by contrasts: large agricultural resources juxtaposed with astonishing biodiversity, a complex pattern of private and public land, and a diverse and growing population. In the next century, the parallel drivers of population growth and climate change will both increase the need for food, fiber, energy and water from our landscapes, and also increase the number and quality of demands placed on our natural, urban, agricultural and working landscapes. The tradeoffs between agriculture, population, climate, water, wildlands, and energy play out continually across our California landscapes, modifying the complex pattern of farms, forests, cities, nature preserves and ranches, and in turn altering the way in which these systems interact and function. The study of the interplay between landscapes and the ecosystem goods and services they provide falls under the recently described field of “land change science.” This interdisciplinary field of research spans the social, spatial and biophysical sciences and seeks to understand the dynamics and feedbacks between the social and environmental components of the landscape. California -- diverse, dynamic and growing -- is at the extreme end of biophysical and social complexity, and thus faces the immediate consequences of land use change. We have an urgent need for academic research and outreach excellence in this important area, to help California plan for future growth and land use change in such a way that people can reside in livable communities while maintaining connected and functioning natural and agricultural systems. These issues are at the heart of ANR’s Strategic Vision.

Extension: The Land Change Science Specialist would provide science-based solutions and bridge conflicting interests with knowledge, targeted research, and local education regarding the relationships between expanding population and climate change, and the remaining matrix of wild landscapes, urban areas, working landscapes and agriculture. The Specialist would provide outreach information to clientele in the public and private sector, including those in planning, and natural resource management; land managers of municipal and regional parks and other public lands; as well as homeowners and landowners. Information would be provided in the form of short courses, workshops, and lectures; technical and semi-technical articles published in

appropriate venues; presentations at local, regional, and national meetings; and web-based information. Meaningful engagement in UC ANR's Strategic Initiatives and Program Teams is essential for a successful program. Please refer to:

http://ucanr.org/About_ANR/Strategic_Vision/.

Research: The incumbent is expected to develop a strong program of applied research in the emerging area of Land Change Science, which embraces aspects of global environmental change, resource economics, land management, planning and policy, geospatial sciences, and sustainability research. Synergistic areas of interest and expertise for this person might be: coupled natural-human systems; empirical studies of land manager preferences and decisions, understanding drivers and consequences of landscape change; multi-scale land use and land functional modeling; earth observation and monitoring in support of land change quantification; social-ecological feedbacks in landscape change; and landscape planning. Publication outlets include ANR and UC IPM Publications; Extension publications; peer-reviewed journals including Landscape Ecology, Journal of Land Change Science, Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, Environmental Planning and Assessment; and other planning, geospatial, land management, and ecological journals.

ANR continuum: The Land Change Science Specialist would provide outreach information to UC CE Advisors who focus on landscape-scale processes, land management, planning and policy, and sustainability. By focusing on landscape-scale processes and land change, the new Specialist would provide a bridge between these basic and applied scientists and serve as a conduit for outreach to Advisors and clientele that is currently lacking at UC Berkeley.

Applications will be accepted beginning September 3, 2012 through October 31st, 2012. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in Geography, Ecology, Natural Resource Management, Sustainability, Environmental Planning or related area, with training and experience in related fields, such as of global environmental change, land use modeling, resource economics, land management, planning and policy, geospatial sciences, and sustainability research. The Ph.D. or equivalent is required by the date of hire. We seek candidates who will contribute to equal opportunity in higher education through research, outreach and service. Interested individuals should submit the following application materials online at <http://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/apply/JPF00030>: 1) a cover letter, 2) a curriculum vitae, 3) a statement of research and extension interests, 4) pdf copies of up to 3 recent publications, and 5) a list of three referees who have been asked to submit a letter of recommendation. All letters will be treated as confidential per University of California policy and California state law. Please refer potential referees, including when letters are provided via a third party (i.e., dossier service or career center), to the UC Berkeley statement of confidentiality: <http://apo.chance.berkeley.edu/evalltr.html>.

For additional information on the Department and the campus visit <http://ourenvironment.berkeley.edu>, and <http://berkeley.edu>. The University of California is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.