POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT # 0001-3213
REQUISITION # 493569

Title: Assistant Professor - Coastal Ecology

Location: Soil and Water Science Department (SWSD)
Sustainable Fisheries Cluster and
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
University of Florida,
Gainesville, Florida

Salary: Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience

Review Date: For full consideration, candidates should apply and submit additional materials by November 25, 2015. The position will open until a viable applicant pool is determined.

Duties and Responsibilities
This is a 12-month tenure-accruing position that will be 70% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) and 30% extension (Florida Cooperative Extension Service), with joint appointments in the Center for Sustainable Fisheries (CSF), and the Soil and Water Science Department (SWSD) in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. Tenure will accrue in the SWSD.

The incumbent in this position will be expected to develop a productive, extramurally funded interdisciplinary research program in the area of nearshore aquatic and coastal wetland ecology. Potential impacts of climate change and sea level rise on soil and water chemical issues should be considered. Some suggested research topics include: a) how changes in water quality and quantity resulting from landuse and nutrient loads would influence fish and shellfish populations, b) how changes in freshwater flow and sea level rise would influence coastal and inland systems and fisheries they support; c) the effects of sediment texture and chemistry on seagrass recruitment and development; d) development of biogeochemical and ecological indicators that can used to determine coastal habitat quality and productivity under a range of conditions; e) coastal wetland resilience/adaptation to sea level rise and restoration and establishment techniques for “living shorelines” to mitigate for sea level rise, and f) assessment and development of mitigation strategies for ecological impacts associated with human infrastructure that will become abandoned through time in response to sea level rise. In addition, all aspects of the research program will be integrated with an active Extension component that will conduct programs related to factors influencing coastal habitat quality and quantity, water quality, and changes in resource use, including work with Sea Grant and county extension agents.

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The University of Florida is committed to the marine sciences and to communicating science with the citizens of Florida concerning the issues that face our coastal communities. UF maintains a strong presence on both coasts with the Whitney laboratory for Marine Bioscience located on the Atlantic Coast in St. Augustine, and on the Gulf Coast, the Nature Coast Biological Station and the Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory, both housed in Cedar Key, Florida. Utilization of these resources is encouraged.

This position is one of three in a cohort that will strengthen UF’s capacity in integrative fisheries research, teaching and extension in key areas by providing high-quality geospatial information, analyzing and reforming governance systems, and connecting fisheries and habitat management, all of which are required to sustain fisheries systems. This cohort of faculty includes expertise in: 1) Coastal marine remote sensing and geospatial analysis; 2) Fisheries Governance and Policy; and 3) Coastal Ecosystem Ecology and Management. A faculty cohort in Sustainable Fisheries was approved to provide and interdisciplinary approach to the critical fisheries management water problems that Florida, the nation and the world face and will continue to face with population growth. The positions will have tenure homes in School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC), Food and Resource Economics (FRE) and Soil and Water Sciences (SWS) but will be encouraged to work collaboratively with each other and with other faculty to develop an interdisciplinary program in fisheries science. The units will work toward establishment of a broader official UF or IFAS Center for Sustainable Fisheries.

**Qualifications**
A doctorate (foreign equivalent acceptable) in soil and water science, aquatic ecology or related discipline. Skills and experience directly related to coastal ecology, biogeochemistry, and water quality are essential. Post-doctoral experience is highly desirable. The ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary manner with faculty from departments outside the incumbent’s home academic unit is essential. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication, interpersonal relationships, and procurement of extramural funding. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system. Candidates must also have a commitment to IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability.

**Background Information:**
The SWSD has established itself as a leader in teaching, research, and extension/outreach programs in management and restoration of these resources. The interdisciplinary nature of SWSD programs provides students and faculty an opportunity to conduct basic and applied research at multiple (molecular to landscape) scales to solve environmental problems and protect and manage land and water resources. Details about the SWSD can be found at: [http://soils.ifas.ufl.edu](http://soils.ifas.ufl.edu)

The University of Florida ([http://www.ufl.edu](http://www.ufl.edu)) is a Land-Grant, Sea-Grant, and Space-Grant institution, encompassing virtually all academic and professional disciplines, with an enrollment of more than 50,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences ([http://ifas.ufl.edu](http://ifas.ufl.edu)) includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences ([http://cals.ufl.edu](http://cals.ufl.edu)), the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station ([http://research.ifas.ufl.edu](http://research.ifas.ufl.edu)), the Florida Cooperative Extension Service ([http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu](http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu)), the College of Veterinary Medicine ([http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu](http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu)), the Florida Sea Grant program ([http://www.flseagrant.org/](http://www.flseagrant.org/)), and encompasses 16 on-campus academic departments and schools, 12 Research and Educational Centers

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(REC) located throughout the state, 6 Research sites/demonstration units administered by RECs or academic departments, and Florida Cooperative Extension Service offices in all 67 counties (counties operate and maintain). The School of Natural Resources and Environment is an interdisciplinary unit housed in IFAS and managed by several colleges on campus. IFAS employs over 2500 people, which includes approximately 900 faculty and 1200 support personnel located in Gainesville and throughout the state. IFAS, one of the nation’s largest agricultural and natural resources research and education organizations, is administered by a Senior Vice President and four deans: the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Dean for Extension and Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Dean for Research and Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine. UF/IFAS also engages in cooperative work with Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

**Employment Conditions**
This position is available **November 25, 2015** and will be filled as soon thereafter as an acceptable applicant is available. Compensation is commensurate with the education, experience, and qualifications of the selected applicant.

**Nominations**
Nominations are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee. This information should be sent to:

Please refer to Requisition # 493569

Dr. Patrick C (Chris) Wilson  
Chair, Search and Screen Committee  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611-0940  

Telephone: 352-294-3166  
Facsimile: 352-392-3399  
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**Application Information**
Individuals wishing to apply should go online to [http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/493569](http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/493569) and submit:

- Application
- Cover letter that states applicant’s interest in the position and qualifications relative to the credentials listed above
- Curriculum vitae
- Unofficial transcripts showing receipt of the doctoral degree
- Contact information (including email addresses) for four individuals willing to write letters of recommendation.
Final candidate will be required to provide official transcript 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 approved by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), which can be found at [http://www.naces.org/](http://www.naces.org/).

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The selection process will be conducted in accord with the provisions of Florida’s ‘Government in the Sunshine’ and Public Records Laws. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.