



## **Graduate Research Assistant – Tropical Land Use and Sustainable Bioenergy – The University of Wisconsin-Madison**

The Gibbs Lab group at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has funding for a Graduate Research Assistant starting in the Fall of 2011 to research carbon emissions, tropical deforestation and bioenergy issues. Ideally, the student will focus on tropical land-use transitions in response to global economic drivers such as bioenergy mandates and demand-side pressures from Greenpeace and other NGOs. The research will likely involve a combination of GIS and database analysis along with statistical modeling. Questions include – What are the drivers of agricultural land-use change? Do bioenergy subsidies in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere influence rates of forest clearing? What role could the soy or oil palm moratoriums play in mitigating causes and drivers of deforestation? How have tropical land-use patterns changed over the last three decades? What does this mean for carbon emissions?

Preference given to students with work experience and / or time spent in the tropics. GIS and statistical training would be ideal. Applicant must be accepted into the Department of Geography or Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies graduate program. Typically, graduate students in our research programs have undergraduate GPAs above 3.5, and GRE scores in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher. Benefits include stipend, tuition remission and eligibility to participate in the Graduate Student Health Insurance Program.

Madison is widely recognized for its high quality of life, vibrant culture and arts scene, and easy access to natural areas. Costs of living are moderate, and public transportation or bicycle paths are easy transportation options.

For more information:

Gibbs webpage: <http://www.sage.wisc.edu/people/gibbs/gibbs.html>

Nelson Institute: <http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/>

Department of Geography: <http://www.geography.wisc.edu/>

To apply, please submit a cover letter detailing qualifications and research interests, CV, and email addresses of three references to Holly Gibbs [hgibbs@stanford.edu](mailto:hgibbs@stanford.edu). Interested candidates should also submit an application to the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies (Environment and Resources program preferred) and / or the Department of Geography (People and Environment program preferred).

Dr. Holly Gibbs

Assistant Professor (starting Aug 2011)

Department of Geography & Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

University of Wisconsin-Madison