

**Scientist Recruitment Initiative
RWU Proposal**

Name of Proposal Contact: Dr. James M. Guldin
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Name and contact points of proposed position supervisor: Dr. James M. Guldin

Position title/discipline of proposed position: Research Forest Ecologist

Brief description of proposed RWU/graduate research supported through the position:

The position is a research and extension position in silviculture and stand development of pine and pine-hardwood forests in the West Gulf Coastal Plain and the Interior Highlands.

Research responsibilities would center on development of a statistically robust monitoring program to quantify the effects of forest management decisions (if any) made on association with timber cutting activities on public, forest industry, and private nonindustrial lands in the West Gulf Coastal Plain and Interior Highlands.

Extension responsibilities center on the Crossett Experimental Forest, a 1680-ac property under management by the research unit since 1934, and involve technology transfer of research products from Crossett and elsewhere that pertain to management of naturally-regenerated pine and pine-hardwood stands in the region. Important customers include industry foresters, and foresters such as state service foresters and consulting foresters who work with non-industrial private forest landowners. However, the key client will be National Forest resource managers under the proposed NFMA Planning Regulations, for whom silvicultural practices that rely upon natural regeneration are becoming increasingly important.

The duty station for this position would be at the unit headquarters in Monticello Arkansas, which is housed with the School of Forest Resources at the University of Arkansas-Monticello. While UAM offers the only forestry degree in Arkansas, it does not offer Ph.D. forestry education. It will thus be necessary for the student to enroll and complete coursework for the Ph.D. elsewhere, then relocate to the duty station for the execution of the dissertation research.

Desirable academic qualifications of the student recruit: Masters (preferred) or Bachelors degree in Forestry, Forest Ecology, Mensuration, Biometrics, or Ecology. The incumbent must complete a Ph.D. program prior to conversion to a Research Forest Ecologist.

Colleges/universities (to extend beyond those already identified in the Service-wide multicultural workforce initiatives such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, and the Persons with Disabilities Initiative) to be contacted for potential recruits/applicants: Colleges and universities accredited or candidates for accreditation by the Society of American Foresters.

Potential colleges/universities to provide graduate education: The nature of the position suggests that a student might enroll for the Ph.D. at any institution in the nation that offers Ph.D. coursework. For reasons related to familiarity with the forest type and region, a university located within the West Gulf Coastal Plain or Interior Highlands would be preferred (University of Arkansas, Oklahoma State University, University of Missouri-Columbia, Texas A&M University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University). Also suitable would be a major private institution with an acceptable professional program (Yale University, Duke University).

Brief description of the community environment: Monticello, the county seat for Drew County, is nestled in the rolling hills of southeast Arkansas, and is the fastest-growing town in the area. Air service is provided through Little Rock National Airport, 100 miles to the north. Regional bus service is available, but no local public transportation is available. Drew County is more than 70 percent forested; major employers are the forestry and forest products industry, recreational boat manufacturing, and the 2500-student University of Arkansas at Monticello. Recreation opportunities center around outdoor activities such as hunting on forest lands in the area and fishing and water recreation on Lake Monticello; cultural events are available through public programming provided through the University. The population of Drew County is nearly 18,000, of which 69.8 percent is white and 29.9 percent black.

Proposed temporary housing options for the student while working away from the campus : For summers prior to relocation, the Crossett EF has quarters available. Rental property and homes for purchase are available in Monticello, associated with the somewhat ephemeral nature of university faculty and student housing in the local real estate market.

Brief explanation of how this proposal supports the scientist recruitment initiative: The absence of a major university at the duty station provides a unique opportunity to recruit the best possible candidate, and have that candidate matriculate at the institution of his or her choice. This approach optimizes the likelihood of ensuring a merit-based appointment. The position also exemplifies the 'spanner'-type position that combines research and extension responsibilities, which some see as a model for future entry-level Forest Service R&D scientist positions.

Station priority of proposal: Priority 1 _____ Priority 2 _____

I understand acceptance of this proposal will result in a commitment to hire the student into a full-time permanent scientist position at my unit upon successful completion of the program.

/s/ **James M. Guldin** Project Leader, SRS-4106 6/23/00

Signature

Date