UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

Faculté des sciences de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation
Département de phytologie

Postdoctoral position in Conservation biology and Ecosystem services.

Département de phytologie, Université Laval, Québec, Canada

Monique Poulin's lab wants to recruit a post-doc candidate to lead two projects in the field of systematic planning, ecology and conservation of ecological services. We seek to find an exceptional candidate that will rapidly take the lead of the proposed research.

Proposed research :

Through the study case of the St-Charles' river watershed, the project aims at generating knowledge that will help municipalities to plan wetlands conservation, restoration and creation in order to satisfy the needs in ecosystem services (ES). From a fundamental point of view, we aim at refining our approaches in systematic planning for optimizing the supply of ES and fulfilling the demand for these ES at the regional scale.

Initially developed to reach objectives on biodiversity protection, systematic planning has lately been optimized to take into account ecosystem services. Among others, we have considered the spatial relation between sites supplying ES and places where we benefit from them. We now want to apply these approaches to plan wetland restoration and creation at the watershed scale in order to reach no net loss objectives.

The project is already started and the candidate will benefit from a comprehensive data base on ecosystem services quantification and mapping. The project imply the collaboration with a full research team including hydrologists (modelling, Alain Rousseau de l'INRS ÉTÉ[1]), ecologists (systematic planning, plant ecology, ecological conservation and restoration, Stéphanie Pellerin de l'IRBV[1]), economists (value of ES and restoration costs, Jérôme Dupras de l'UQO[I]) and lawyers (environmental law, Sophie Lavallée de ULaval[1]). The project is being conducted in collaboration with professionals of the City of Québec. The candidate will also

Pavillon Paul-Comtois
2425, rue de l'Agriculture
Local 3236
Québec (Québec) G1V 0A6
CANADA

418 656-2004
Télécopieur : 418 656-7856
plg@plg.ulaval.ca
www.plg.ulaval.ca

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benefit from the Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science (https://qcbs.ca). There is a potential to collaborate with Bordeaux University and to take part of other projects within M. Poulin's lab and the research team.

Application :

Duration: 2 years with a very high possibility to extend for two more years (this will be conformed before April 2018).

Salary: 50 000$ per year.

Closing date: Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is identified.

Start: As soon as possible

To apply, please submit the following by email to monique.poulin@fsaa.ulaval.ca:

1. Cover letter describing your interest in, and fit for, the project
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Name et contact information of 4 referees

Main responsabilities:

The successful candidate will:

1) Get acquainted with approaches of systematic planning, notably with programing with Marxan.

2) Get familiar with the literature on ecosystem services and wetland vegetation in order to develop conservation scenarios.

3) Adapt systematic planning procedures developed for conservation to establish priorities for wetland restoration and creation at the watershed scale.

4) Assume the leadership of the research project and organize meetings with partners from the City of Québec. Interact with and help other students of the lab.

5) Author\co-author research papers, reports, conference papers and publications.

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Desired skills:

The ideal candidate will hold a PhD in Ecology, Geography, Natural Resources, or a related field and have a good knowledge in biological conservation, notably on aspects related to ecosystem services and systematic planning. Candidates that are not acquainted with systematic planning tools will be considered if they show excellent potential in research and a great interest to rapidly integrate the appropriate literature and to learn programming with Marxan. A good knowledge of Geographic Information System is necessary.

Reading French is not essential but will be considered as an advantage. The successful candidate will show strong aptitudes for both fundamental and applied research as well as for communication and collaboration with other members of the team and with municipal partners. High writing skills are essential.

The candidate will preferentially be based in Québec city but agreements can be taken for working part-time from Montréal.

Monique Poulin
Professeure titulaire
Département de Phytologie
monique.poulin@fsaa.ulaval.ca
1-418-656-2131 poste 13035

[1] Institut National de Recherche Scientifique, Québec
[1] Institut de Recherche en Biologie Végétale, Montréal
[1] Université du Québec en Outaouais, Gatineau
[1] Université Laval, Québec

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