



Graduate Research Assistantships in Forest Soils / Biogeochemistry

The Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech is seeking applicants for multiple graduate research assistantships (4 PhD and 1 MS) expected to begin in the summer or fall of 2010. Research assistantships include a full tuition waiver, benefits, and a competitive annual stipend including summer support (~\$19,000 - \$21,000). For more information on the graduate program in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech, please visit: www.forestry.vt.edu.

Soil Biogeochemistry in Pine-Switchgrass Agroforestry Ecosystems (PhD)

Investigating the linked cycles of C, nutrients and water in a Loblolly pine-switchgrass intercropping system designed to simultaneously maximize productivity for biofuels and forest products. (Strahm and Fox)

Abiotic Controls on Soil C and N Export in Forested Watersheds (PhD)

Investigating hydrologic and soil chemical controls on C and N export in response to global change factors (e.g. N deposition, altered precipitation). Work will involve cross-site comparisons between the US Forest Service's Coweeta Hydrologic Lab and Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest. (Strahm)

Uptake Efficiency of Applied N in Managed Forest Ecosystems (PhD)

Determine the N uptake efficiency and related growth response in loblolly pine plantations following fertilization with urea and stabilized nitrogen fertilizers. The project will involve the use of ¹⁵N labeled fertilizer in both greenhouse and field experiments. This project is supported by the Forest Nutrition Cooperative (www.forestnutrition.org). (Fox)

Use of Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer in Managed Forest Ecosystems (PhD)

Evaluate the use of enhanced efficiency fertilizers, including slow and controlled-release fertilizers, to improve nutrient efficiency and reduce nutrient losses following fertilization of plantation forests. The goal is to increase the nutrient uptake and utilization efficiency. The work is supported by the Forest Nutrition Cooperative (www.forestnutrition.org). (Fox)

Biogeochemistry of Soil C, N and P in Reclaimed Mined Lands (MS)

Investigating the restoration of ecological function (carbon and nutrient cycling dynamics) in forest ecosystems following different mined land reclamation practices utilizing historic trials established as part of Virginia Tech's Powell River Project (www.cses.vt.edu/PRP). (Strahm)

Interested students should contact either:

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