Job Opening: Research Fellow

The Savanna Institute in partnership with the USDA National Agroforestry Center (NAC) invites applications for a Research Fellow to assist with the updating of a research synthesis publication entitled Conservation Buffers: Design Guidelines for Buffers, Corridors, and Greenways. We seek applicants who share our passion for ecological and equitable agriculture as a nature-based climate solution who are motivated to widen the circle of who has the opportunity to inform, support, and benefit from its development. To that end, we are seeking a diversity of voices at the table and strongly encourage people of color, women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, people with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities, foreign-born residents, and veterans to apply.

Posted January 21st, 2022

Organization Description
The Savanna Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin and Urbana, Illinois. Established in 2013, we work in collaboration with farmers, scientists, and other stakeholders to develop perennial food and fodder crops within multifunctional systems grounded in ecology and inspired by the savanna biome. Our work aims to lay the groundwork for widespread agroforestry in the Midwest US via strategic research and education. For more information, please visit savannainstitute.org.

How To Apply Submit a resume/CV and cover letter to jobs@savannainstitute.org

Deadline Review of applications will begin February 25th, 2022; position will be open until filled.

Questions?
Job Posting questions: Devon Brock-Montgomery, Administrative Assistant, devon@savannainstitute.org
Project-specific questions: Gary Bentrup, Res. Landscape Planner, USDA National Agroforestry Center, gary.bentrup@usda.gov

Diversity Commitment
The Savanna Institute affirms the value of diversity of staff and stakeholders and aims to foster inclusive environments and equitable outcomes of our work. We seek individuals who are committed to these goals.

Equal Employment Opportunity
Equal Opportunity is and shall be provided for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without unlawful discrimination on the basis of their race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age,
disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable state or federal law.
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Widespread implementation of agroforestry systems depends on using the best science available and for the science to be actionable, it needs to be synthesized and delivered in a useful format for decision makers. Published in 2008, Conservation Buffers: Design Guidelines for Buffers, Corridors, and Greenways provides over 80 illustrated design guidelines synthesized and developed from a review of over 1400 research publications. Each guideline describes a specific way that a vegetative buffer can be applied to protect soil, improve air and water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, produce economic products, provide recreation opportunities, or beautify the landscape. These science-based guidelines are presented as easy-to-understand rules-of-thumb for facilitating the planning and designing of vegetative buffers in rural and urban landscapes.

The Research Fellow will assist in updating this publication based on new research literature that has been published since 2008 that could influence planning, design, and management of multifunctional vegetative buffers. The Research Fellow will work with USDA NAC’s Research Landscape Planner to identify any potential changes to existing guidelines as well as assist in developing new guidelines.

In addition to English, the original guide was published in Chinese, French, Mongolian, Spanish, and Korean and has received several national awards. This is your opportunity to be a part of the update of this guide as a contributing author.

Key activities include:

1. Conduct a comprehensive scientific literature search to identify potentially relevant research for updating the guide
2. Review and extract planning, design, and management information from studies in a systemic manner
3. Develop modifications of existing guidelines based on the literature review
4. Identify and help develop new guidelines based on the literature review
Job Description

**Hours:** 20 to 40 hours (negotiable)

**Location:** Remote

**Start Date:** Early 2022

**Salary:** $30/hr, not to exceed 1,190 hours ($35,700)

- This position reports to the research landscape planner at the USDA National Agroforestry Center.

If you're excited about this job, we're excited to learn about your experience! Please be sure to address each of the following qualifications in your cover letter — paint us a picture of how your unique skills, experiences, and/or education meet or exceed the qualifications.

**Required Qualifications:**
- Bachelor or master’s in environmental science, agroforestry, environmental planning, landscape architecture, or a related field
- Strong skills in scientific literature review and synthesis
- Commitment to participating in a collaborative environment
- Proven ability to work with minimal supervision
- Familiarity with best practices in science communication