

Two doctoral fellowships in amphibian population ecology

The University of Maine is launching the Sustainable Solutions Initiative with a \$20 million, five year grant from the National Science Foundation's EPSCOR program (SSI: www.umaine.edu/sustainability_solutions). One project that SSI may support would be an interdisciplinary research program on vernal pool ecology and conservation as a model system for developing more effective approaches to natural resource planning. The core research team consists of ecologists, economists, and communication specialists including 7 professors and 4 Ph.D. students.

Graduate Fellowships: There will be 2 Ph.D. fellowships available beginning January 2010 at the University of Maine to participate in studies of amphibian population ecology. One fellowship will support a PhD student to work with Mac Hunter to study the movement of amphibians through different environments (e.g., forests, clearcuts, lawns, pavement) to better understand population persistence in complex landscapes. A second fellowship will support a Ph.D. student to work with Aram Calhoun and Cynthia Loftin to examine amphibian movements and habitat use in wetland-limited, remote landscapes in western Maine. The results from these dissertation research projects will be integrated with concurrent research examining collaborative management, economics of conservation, and community engagement in vernal pool conservation to develop guidance for management policies that consider the socio-economic needs of Maine citizens while also conserving amphibian populations.

Qualifications: a degree in a related field; excellent GPA and GRE scores; an interest in collaborative, multi-disciplinary approaches to problem solving; and substantial field experience. Support includes a fellowship of \$20-25,000/year for four years, a tuition waiver, subsidy for health insurance, and funds for field research.

Application Procedures: Interested applicants should submit the following information to **WILDECO@umenfa.maine.edu** with subject line "**SSI Amphibian Fellowships**":

- 1) a letter detailing your interest in one or both of these positions specifically and the goals of the SSI in general;
- 2) a resume;
- 3) photocopies of GRE scores and transcripts; and
- 4) names, phone numbers, and email addresses of three references familiar with your academic and research history.

Review of materials will begin in mid-October and continue until the position is filled.