

Position Title: Postdoctoral Researcher - Land Use Conversion Assessment

Location: Fully remote or Madison, WI, USA

Position Type: Full-Time Postdoctoral Fellowship. Note, the candidate will have the opportunity to base their employment through Carbon A-List, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, or other partner universities or organizations.

Overview: We are seeking a dedicated and driven Postdoctoral Researcher to lead a research project focused on land use conversion assessment in collaboration with a multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to improve land use science and the sustainability of U.S. commodity crop supply chains. The successful candidate will play a key role in developing novel data and analyses, advancing project outcomes, and publishing results in a peer-reviewed journal article and public-facing report. This position offers a unique opportunity to work closely with stakeholders across the agriculture, conservation, and policy sectors to advance land use change assessment and agricultural sustainability.

Background:

For the past year, a multi-stakeholder initiative sponsored by United Soybean Board, has aimed to gain clarity and consensus on how to identify, prioritize and address gaps specific to land use change (LUC) in the U.S. that are important to food, renewable fuel, and fiber supply chains.

This initiative is focused on three outcomes:

1. **Shared Vision** – Creating a shared vision for a LUC quantification framework that meets the needs of all relevant stakeholders; and
2. **Shared Definitions** – Establishing shared definitions of key terminology and criteria for ideal LUC frameworks;
3. **Action** – Developing and implementing actions for achieving the shared vision

This position will support technical assessments to augment a group of stakeholders that is recognizing the following key issues:

1. **Critical Role** – LUC assessments play a pivotal role in shaping resource management decisions and policy formulation.
2. **Direct and Indirect Impacts** – LUC delivers direct and indirect impacts for all aspects of food, renewable fuel and fiber supply chains and society.
3. **Far-reaching Implications**
 - SUPPLY CHAIN COMMITMENTS – LUC has significant implications for supply chain commitments regarding GHG emissions, biodiversity, water security, food security, energy security, ecosystem resilience and services.
 - LIVELIHOODS – The nature of LUC, along with its estimations, can significantly influence the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers as well as rural and Indigenous communities.

Job Description:

The Postdoctoral Researcher in Land Use Conversion Assessment will be responsible for conducting comprehensive research, spatial analysis, and report writing to produce a peer-reviewed journal article and a public report on land use change and natural ecosystems in the United States. This role requires collaboration with interdisciplinary teams and close engagement with key stakeholders.

Key Responsibilities:

Project scoping: Work together with a technical working group to define project scope and budget.

Research and Analysis: Conduct in-depth research on land use conversion and its impacts on local and regional environments. Analyze data and relevant literature to inform the study.

Data Collection and Management: Conduct data collection, management, and analysis utilizing GIS and remote sensing tools

Peer-Reviewed Journal Article: Lead the development and writing of research paper(s) suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Ensure the research meets rigorous scientific standards and contributes to the field's knowledge.

Public Report: Prepare an accessible report for public dissemination, summarizing research findings, implications, and recommendations. Design the report to engage and inform a broad range of stakeholders.

Stakeholder Engagement: Collaborate with project teams to gather input and feedback from key stakeholders. Ensure that the report addresses the concerns and needs of relevant communities and organizations.

Presentation and Dissemination: Present research findings to internal and external audiences, including academic and non-academic stakeholders. Engage in knowledge exchange and outreach efforts.

Collaborative Research: Work closely with the research team to improve land use change assessment methodologies and contribute to broader research goals.

Qualifications:

Ph.D. in a relevant field, such as Agriculture, Geography, Environmental Science, Land Use Planning, or a related discipline. Expertise in land use conversion assessment and related topic areas is a large plus.

Strong research and analytical skills, including proficiency in statistics, geospatial analysis, and data visualization tools.

Proficiency in GIS and remote sensing tools. Experience with Google Earth Engine is highly desirable.

Knowledge of agricultural greenhouse gas accounting and/or carbon modeling and assessment is advantageous

Exceptional scientific writing and communication skills, with a proven ability to prepare research papers and reports for publication and public dissemination.

Experience with stakeholder engagement and the ability to effectively communicate complex topics to diverse audiences.

Strong project management skills and the ability to work effectively in cross-functional teams.

A commitment to staying updated with the latest industry trends and research developments.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume, a cover letter outlining their qualifications and research interests, and a sample of their academic or scientific writing to luci@carbonalist.com with the subject line "Postdoctoral Researcher Application - Land Use Conversion Assessment." Please include your contact information and indicate your salary expectations.

Carbon A List is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds. *Applicants must be authorized to work for employers in the U.S. We are unable to sponsor or take over sponsorship of an employment Visa at this time.*

Application Deadline: February 16, 2024