**Job title**: 2 MS positions in Conservation Planning and Sustainable Development

**Job description:**

We are seeking two fill two M.S. graduate positions focused on improving natural resource policy and increasing resilience of society to current and future challenges. The successful candidate will work to co-develop a project of mutual interest with Dr. Zavaleta Cheek. One project will revolve around building more resilient plans for climate adaptation and the other will be about how to fortify local food networks and improve food security.

Specifically, one project will focus on understanding how people and organizations prepare for and respond to shocks (such as floods, drought, market fluctuations etc.) to inform future responses to these stressors. This could also contribute to a process for incorporating climate science into state agency plans.

Another project will address local food systems and food security in either South Dakota or India (data already collected). This position would contribute to our understanding of local food networks and will employ social systems mapping to identify gaps and opportunities to increase resilience of local producer networks and improve food security outcomes.

The successful candidates will engage with a larger network of resource managers and producer groups. Students will employ modern qualitative and quantitative analysis to address questions of mutual interest. Each student will conduct an independent thesis research project that aligns with the larger goal and research team, produce peer-reviewed publications, present at conferences, and complete necessary coursework.

The student will be supported on a combination of teaching and research assistantships for 2 years, with possible extension given project timelines. The stipend is $20,000 with full tuition waiver. GRE scores not required for admission.

The anticipated start date is January 2022. However, there is opportunity to start earlier and be paid hourly, if desired.

**Qualifications:**

Required: Minimum GPA of 3.0, Bachelors in Social Science, Natural Resource Management, Ecology, Environmental Science, or any field related to conservation or sustainability.

Preferred but not required: Research experience (from job, internship, or undergraduate research) including any of the following - writing, experimental design, data analysis, conference presentations.

BIPOC, LGBTQ+, women, and other underrepresented groups in STEM are encouraged to apply.

GRE not required

To Apply: If interested in one or all positions, please submit 1) unofficial transcripts, 2) resume or CV, 3) a cover letter detailing your interest in the position, and 4) a list of three references and their contact information. Please specify in your cover letter your specific research interests. Application materials should be combined into a single pdf and submitted to Dr. Jennifer Zavaleta Cheek.

**Deadline**: August 15, 2022

**Contact Person:** Jennifer.ZavaletaCheek@sdstate.edu