Efficacy of a Nature-like Fish Bypass Channel on the Yellowstone River, Montana

We seek an MS candidate with a strong interest in applied fisheries management to evaluate a nature-like fish bypass designed to provide fish passage at a low-head irrigation diversion dam on the Yellowstone River. Only a few evaluations of nature-like bypasses have been conducted—none in a system such as the Yellowstone. The research will entail collecting and PIT-tagging a variety of species and sizes of fish and monitoring their movements with stationary PIT-tag antennas and by recapture. The research will be conducted in close cooperation with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program, and the Fish Passage and Ecohydraulics Research Group at MSU. Findings will influence design and development of planned channels elsewhere.

Qualifications: BS in fisheries, ecology, or a related field and a minimum 3.0 GPA and 300 (Verbal + Quantitative) GRE. Applicants should have a strong interest in solving applied fishery science problems. Quantitative skills are required, as are a good work ethic, enthusiasm, creativity, field experience, technical writing skills, a commitment to research productivity (publishing and presenting), ability to work both independently and cooperatively, professional activities (e.g., AFS), and people skills. Large river and PIT-tagging experience preferred.

Stipend: $1,530 per month plus tuition and fees.

Closing Date: Until filled. Potential applicants should submit materials as soon as possible to be considered.

Starting Date: January 2019 (or possibly earlier).

Contact: Please send letter of interest, résumé or CV, names and contact information for three references, an example of technical writing, and academic transcripts and GRE scores (photocopies, scans, and email attachments acceptable) to:

Alexander Zale, Unit Leader, USGS Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, Montana State University, MSU-PO Box 173460, Bozeman, MT 59717-3460, USA; email: zale@montana.edu

Incomplete submissions will not be considered. After initial screening, the successful candidate will be asked to submit a formal graduate school application. Final acceptance is contingent on graduate school acceptance.