

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Ecology, Montana State University

Position: MS Assistantship – Population Ecology of Merriam's Turkey

Description: The successful candidate will develop a research project to understand and quantify demography of Merriam's wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo merriami*) in the Northern Black Hills of South Dakota. The project is a collaboration with Dr. Chad Lehman, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and the research will inform estimates of population growth and management of turkeys. Primary emphasis will be on estimating vital rates, but additional research questions are somewhat flexible and will be determined jointly by the advisor and selected candidate. The student will pursue a M.S. degree in the Department of Ecology at Montana State University (<http://www.montana.edu/ecology>).

Required Qualifications: B.S. in wildlife science, ecology, zoology, or closely related field. A strong work ethic, good verbal and written communication skills, ability to work independently and as a productive member of a research team, and ability to work under adverse field conditions are essential. Research will occur in the Northern Black Hills, South Dakota, and thus will require spending extended periods away from Bozeman.

Students must have a minimum 1100 combined GRE score (V+Q) on the previous scale and 300 on the current scale, as well as a minimum 3.0 GPA (including a 3.0 average in all biology courses; 3.0 average in all courses taken during the junior and senior years; and 2.5 average in all chemistry, physics and mathematics courses).

Preferred Qualifications: Background or interest in population ecology and ornithology, as well as interest in and aptitude for quantitative ecology and population estimation. Experience capturing and handling birds, radio telemetry, nest monitoring, hiking, and some experience with plant identification. Experience working and communicating with other biologists, landowners, and the public.

Stipend/Salary: The student will be supported by a research assistantship (\$1400/month, plus insurance) and tuition/fees also will be covered. At this time, funding is pending, but will be confirmed in late spring 2015.

Start Date: August 2015

Application Deadline: We will begin reviewing applications on 15 May 2015 and will continue until a candidate is selected.

To Apply: Send a cover letter stating qualifications related to potential research questions and career goals, resume/cv including citations for any publications, unofficial copies of transcripts and GRE scores, and contact information for 3 references to:

Dr. Andrea Litt
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