**Postdoctoral Research Associate**

*Integrating spatiotemporal datasets within North America to better understand the effects of various drivers on populations.*

We seek a postdoctoral researcher to be part of a research team evaluating spatial epidemiology of West Nile virus (WNV) in ruffed grouse throughout Pennsylvania. This research is funded and supported by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The overall goals of this project were to (1) assess landscape-level occurrence and abundance of the primary vector for West Nile virus statewide as index to WNV, (2) build predictive models of environmental and demographic covariates that help explain vector abundance at the local- and landscape-level, and (3) provide management guidelines in the form of a user-friendly app or program to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for ruffed grouse population most at risk for WNV based on results from 1 and 2 above that were recently completed. This research focused on integrating data collected over several years and statewide on factors that influence abundance of WNV in mosquito pools within urban and rural habitats throughout Pennsylvania and the impacts of the virus on ruffed grouse populations.

The successful candidate will be part of an interdisciplinary group that includes ecologists, geneticists, veterinarians, and state agency researchers. This full-time position is located at The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania or remotely depending on the candidate’s preference. The selected candidate must agree to follow all Covid-19 safety guidelines and protocols established by the university. This is a one-year appointment, with an additional 6 months possible pending performance and funding availability. Start date is flexible and dependent upon hiring process but ideally within a month or two of offer.

Salary: $55,000/year plus excellent benefits.

Closing date: 1 week

Qualifications: Competitive candidates should be highly motivated and possess a PhD in spatial ecology of avian and/or mammalian species and disease epidemiology or a related discipline with a strong quantitative emphasis. Specific experience with WNV or ruffed grouse is preferred but not required. The ability to work both independently and collaboratively in a team environment is essential. Submission to or publishing in peer-reviewed journals is required and mandatory prior to any potential renewal beyond the one-year appointment. Experience with Program R and Bayesian methodologies is required. Please provide: (1) a cover letter detailing your experiences for the qualifications above and how they have prepared you for this position, (2) a CV, (3) names and contact information of three professional references, and (4) two relevant publications. Please submit these materials to Dr. W. David Walter via email (wdw12@psu.edu) as a single merged pdf.

For more information, contact Dr. W. David Walter at wdw12@psu.edu; 814-867-4763.