Research Graduate Assistantship

Agency: Midwest State University

Location: Midwest U.S. (duty location flexible)

Category: Full time position

Salary: $18,000.00 stipend + tuition waiver and benefits

Start date: 09/15/2020

Last Date to Apply: 08/07/2020

Description:

We are recruiting a MS/PhD student to begin a new long-term, multi-species population study across reservoirs within a large region of the Midwest. The study will focus on understanding biological factors contributing to recruitment failure across several species, under various lake-specific conditions. However, there is funding and opportunity for students to pursue additional research topics. The results of this study will inform management decisions regarding recreational fisheries guidelines and reservoir management. The student will be based at the university, but the project requires multiple-hour travel around the region to complete sampling and project goals. This project is in collaboration with multiple local/state/federal agencies, with multiple funding sources. The candidate will be responsible for supervising technicians, designing experiments, coordinating relevant data collection, and conducting appropriate statistical analysis for presentation to stakeholders/decision-makers. Therefore, the candidate must have excellent written and verbal communications skills. Regular presentations and contact with the public are required. The candidate will supervise up to three temporary/volunteer technicians and must be able to interact with team members effectively and positively. The Midwest State University values respect, diversity, and public service, and the candidate must reflect these values. Due to the nature of this project, strong attention to detail and organizational skills are necessary for success in this position. Weekend/holiday and non-traditional work hours may be required to meet project goals.

Qualifications:

- Must have completed a four-year degree in ecology, biology, wildlife/fisheries science, or related field by date of hire for Master of Science degree. Must have completed a Master's degree by date of hire for the Doctorate degree.
- Knowledge or interest in the following: fish and population ecology; contemporary fisheries sampling gear and appropriate data analysis techniques; fish biology; fish life history; fisheries management.
- Knowledge and/or proficiency in statistical programming (R or Python preferred), database management (SQL languages), and spatial mapping/remote sensing software (ArcGIS, QGIS, etc.) is preferred, but not required; these skills will be developed through mentorship by the committee.
- Strong interpersonal skills, and well-developed written and verbal communication skills.
- For PhD, demonstration of scientific writing/presentation skills, either through presentation at professional meetings, publication of original research, or publication/contribution to scientific report.
- Must be able to collaborate effectively with adjacent state/federal/tribal agencies and NGOs.
- Must be physically able of working in challenging conditions: heat, cold, insects, and inclement weather
- Must be physically able to lift and carry 30 lbs. for short periods of time.
- A passion and enthusiasm for working with natural resources.