Postdoctoral Fellow
Evaluating the status and distributions of bats in WNS-free areas using standardized acoustic monitoring data from the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat)

POSITION TITLE: Post-doctoral Fellow
SALARY: $53,500-$58,500 per year, benefits included.
PERFORMANCE PERIOD: 12-24 months after start date, anticipate September 2018-September 2020 (second year contingent upon appropriation of funds), with additional years possible
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 18 August 2018, or until suitable candidate is found

POSITION SUMMARY:

Colorado State University is seeking candidates for a postdoctoral position to evaluate bat monitoring efforts based on the North American Bat Monitoring Program. The postdoc will develop status and trends population models integrating existing acoustic data from legacy mobile transects with data collected following NABat acoustic monitoring protocols and environmental covariates that account for large-scale system changes. These models will be used to generate maps of species distributions and evaluate changes in activity of bat species in White-Nose Syndrome (WNS)-free regions. The outcome of this work will be to establish baseline information regionally that will help us to better understand the impacts of WNS and inform monitoring strategies for WNS.

Top priorities include updating NABat databases for analyses, developing habitat and environmental data scaled to population observations, and determining monitoring and estimation methods that are sensitive to potential changes in population distributions, bat acoustic activity, and critical habitat features. The primary objectives for this post-doctoral position are: 1) use acoustic monitoring data collected across multiple states to provide NABat partners with baseline information (e.g., maps) of species distributions and evaluate changes in distributions of bat species in WNS-free regions; 2) develop NABat status and trends models that integrate data from stationary point acoustic monitoring with data collected from mobile acoustic transects to model bat distributions and activity levels; 3) provide a formal evaluation of the benefits and limitations to each approach and their ability to contribute to understanding status and trends of NA bats through the NABat framework.
DUTIES:

The post-doctoral fellow will be primarily supervised by Dr. Bill Kendall at the USGS Colorado Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, at Colorado State University. The incumbent will also work closely with Drs. Brian Reichert (NABat Coordinator, USGS Fort Collins Science Center), Kathi Irvine (USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Research Center), Wayne Thogmartin (USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center), Thomas Rodhouse (NPS, OSU-Cascades), and NABat contributing data partners. The postdoc position will be co-located at Colorado State University and USGS Fort Collins Science Center in Fort Collins, Colorado with significant travel to Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center in Bozeman, Montana.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

1. Ph.D. in biology (wildlife), ecology, or related quantitative field by the start date
2. Knowledge of principles and methods of wildlife monitoring and statistical methods used for modeling the population dynamics and trends of bat populations.
3. Demonstrated proficiency with statistical software including R
4. Demonstrated desire and proficiency to publish in the peer-reviewed literature.

DESIRED ABILITIES:

Competitive candidates will have a background in demographic estimation and population modeling, spatial modeling, knowledge of bat population biology, and knowledge of bat acoustic monitoring methods and analysis of bat acoustic monitoring data. Experience with WinBUGs, JAGS, or STAN software is desirable. The successful candidate should have excellent written and personal communication skills, and be able to work collaboratively.

TO APPLY:

Submit letter of application, CV, copy of transcripts, and reference contact information online at: http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/employment-opportunities.html. For full consideration, all materials must be received by 4:30pm Mountain Standard Time, Friday, Aug 18, 2018.

For further information, contact:
Bill Kendall (William.Kendall@colostate.edu), Brian Reichert (breichert@usgs.gov), or Kathi Irvine (kirvine@usgs.gov).

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Background checks may include, but are not limited to, criminal history, national sex offender search and motor vehicle history.