Postdoctoral or Postgraduate Research Associate: Southeastern U.S. freshwater mussel conservation

Description: We seek a postdoctoral or postgraduate (completed PhD or MSc) research associate to help develop a landscape risk-assessment tool to assist U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologists evaluate imperilment of southeastern freshwater mussels, while providing analytical support for the Species Status Assessment of a petitioned freshwater mussel under the Endangered Species Act. The hired candidate will work directly with Drs. Corey Dunn (U.S. Geological Survey, Mississippi State University) and Mike Colvin (Mississippi State University), while learning in-demand skills transferable to broader applications in natural resources decision-making.

Qualifications: Completed graduate degree in natural resources, ecology, or closely related field before start date and interest in freshwater conservation. Candidates should have interests in R programming, Geographic Information Systems, species distribution modeling, and communicating research to agency decision makers. The hired candidate must be willing to learn emerging Species Status Assessment methods and work collaboratively with project partners.

Salary and benefits: Two-year position with potential for extension depending on funding and performance: post-masters: $40,000–$43,000; post-doctoral $50,000–53,000 per year (DOE) + retirement, health benefits, support for professional travel (professional development, conference attendance).

Start date: Applicant review will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. The position will be readvertised May 1, 2022 if unfilled. Start date is negotiable but targeted for summer or fall of 2022. Telework options may be available.

Apply: Email with the subject line “Mussel Research Associate” to Dr. Corey Dunn (corey.dunn@msstate.edu) in a single, merged PDF: (1) brief cover letter describing experiential background, career goals, and project interest; (2) cv; (3) email addresses and phone numbers for three professional references. We welcome informal inquiries about the position.

MSU is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy, gender identity, status as a U.S. veteran, and/or any other status protected by applicable law. We always welcome nominations and applications from women, members of any minority group, and others who share our passion for building a diverse community that reflects the diversity in our student population.

Helpful links:
Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture: https://www.cfr.msstate.edu/wildlife/
USGS MS Cooperative F&W Research Unit: https://www1.usgs.gov/coopunits/unit/Mississippi