Position: Research Associate
Duty Station: Michigan State University campus, East Lansing, MI
Duration: Jan 1, 2018 through Dec 31, 2019 (2 years)
Salary: $49,000 + benefits

Description:
One Research Associate is needed to conduct integrated population-habitat modeling in support of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) – Wildlife Division species assessment, planning and management activities. This is a collaborative project between Michigan State University and MDNR. Project goals are to compile extensive research and management datasets and to develop interactive maps of potential population-level habitat for historical context and future species management. Results are intended to be incorporated into active landscape level habitat management for selected species. Three to five featured wildlife species, representing a range of available data and habitat requisites, will be selected for initial mapping. Sources of information for each species may include long-term harvest data, habitat model outputs, survey and monitoring data, and other data compiled from research conducted in the state (e.g., peer-reviewed papers, thesis, MDNR reports). The Research Associate will compile all relevant information for each species, develop metadata, and develop a model that integrates this information into a map of population and habitat potential. Ultimately, these maps will be interfaced with existing MDNR information systems so that planners, policy-makers, and field biologists can guide and keep track of specific management activities. This project will give aspiring modelers valuable experience working with a variety of data sets, state-of-the-art modeling techniques, data management and quality control, and the opportunity to interface directly with personnel from MDNR.

Essential Job Functions:
1. Compile information and develop metadata for 3-5 featured wildlife species.
2. Integrate featured species information into a population-habitat potential model and map.
3. Interact with MDNR planners and biologists to produce a product that is useful to decision-making and tracking of activities.
4. Interact with MDNR information systems personnel to integrate (to the extent possible) project products into MDNR planning and operations.
5. Demonstrate an ability to work effectively with others toward meeting the goals of Michigan State University, and relate well with the public and project cooperators.
6. Contribute to the MSU research laboratory administered by Dr. Gary Roloff, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at MSU, and outreach and engagement activities as requested by MDNR.

Minimum Qualifications:
1. PhD in wildlife ecology or related field is required.
2. Necessary skills include proficiency with R-coding, GIS, data management techniques, and modeling.

Additional Qualifications:
1. Experience interacting and working collaboratively with natural resource agencies.
2. Prefer familiarity with ecosystems of Great Lakes Region, United States.

Position open until November 30, 2017.
To apply visit: http://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/listing/ Posting #467383
Questions should be directed to: Dr. Gary Roloff; Roloff@msu.edu