Position: Technician/MS Graduate Research Assistantship: Wildlife Ecology

Affiliation: Turner Enterprises, Inc., Vermejo Park Ranch
Oklahoma State University, Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management
U.S. Geological Survey, Oklahoma Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit

Location: Raton, NM and Stillwater, OK

Job Category: Temporary Position/Graduate Assistantship

Salary: Jul 2022–Dec 2022 – $17.00/hour + lodging and meals
Jan 2023–May 2025 – $19,000/yr + tuition waiver and health insurance at $20 per month

Start Date: 07/01/2022

Last Date to Apply: 04/30/2022

Description: We are recruiting an ambitious team member to evaluate the ecology of cougars and the influence of black bear kleptoparasitism on cougar kill rates in northern New Mexico (Vermejo Park Ranch). Kleptoparasitism by black bears may indirectly influence prey (ungulate) populations if cougars increase their kill rates to account for resources lost to bears. The selected candidate will use data from GPS-collared cougars to identify and characterize cougar prey, and cameras to monitor kill sites of collared cougars to investigate kleptoparasitism. The selected candidate would be employed by Turner Enterprises, Inc. as a wildlife technician from July–December 2022. Contingent upon final funding and acceptance into the graduate program, the successful candidate would then be employed as a Graduate Research Assistant from January 2023–May 2025, while working towards a MS degree in Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University (OSU). The selected candidate will be advised by Drs. Robert Lonsinger (Oklahoma State University), James Cain III (New Mexico State University), and Carter Kruse (Turner Enterprises, Inc./Turner Institute of Ecoagriculture) and will work closely with Lance Bernal (Wildlife Biologist, Vermejo Park Ranch).

Salary Details: The candidate will have salary of $17.00/hour (plus lodging and meals) during employment with Turner Enterprises, Inc. After entering the graduate program at OSU, the MS position will include a graduate stipend of $19,000 annually, resident and non-resident tuition waiver, and health insurance at $20 per month (for student only; family coverage is available for an additional fee).

The Lonsinger (http://www.roblonsinger.com/) lab works on a wide range of research projects in wildlife ecology and management, with an emphasis on the ecology of carnivores and large mammals. We are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and fostering an environment where diversity is accepted and encouraged. We encourage all interested people to apply despite preconceived notions of their own experience as it relates to this project’s objectives.

Qualifications:

Minimum Qualifications:
- BS in wildlife management, natural resources, ecology, or a closely related discipline
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or greater (as required by the Department and Graduate College)
- At least 6 months of field experience conducting wildlife surveys
- Highly motivated with a strong work ethic
- A valid US driver’s license (without restrictions)

Additional Desired Qualifications:
- A strong interest in mammal ecology
- Experience planning and coordinating daily field surveys and activities, or leading independent research
- Coursework or experience with GIS
- Experience using camera traps to monitor wildlife as part of an ecological study
- Experience (or interest) in quantitative approaches and computer programming (e.g., R)
- Experience with technical writing and/or publication
To Apply: Please combine the following into a single PDF file: (1) a single-page cover letter that details why you are interested in this position, your most relevant experiences, and your professional goals/aspirations; (2) a Curriculum Vitae; (3) contact information for 3 references (i.e., name, affiliation, email, and phone number); and (4) unofficial undergraduate transcripts. Send the PDF file as an attachment to robert.lonsinger@okstate.edu no later than 30 April 2022 with the subject titled “Cougar MS Position”. Electronic (email) submission of applications is encouraged but mail is also fine; mailed applications should be postmarked by 30 April 2022 and sent to Robert Lonsinger, 007 Agriculture Hall, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. Please note that application review will begin as applications are received and a candidate may be selected before the closing date.

Institutional Information: Oklahoma State University (OSU) is located in Stillwater, Oklahoma, which is within an hour of both Tulsa and Oklahoma City. OSU is a land-grant institution with an enrollment of ~25,000 students, and it is located on the ancestral lands of the Kickapoo, Osage, Kiowa, and Quapaw peoples. Indigenous people from other Native nations also reside here, many of whom were forcibly removed from their ancestral lands. They all contribute to the history and current vitality of our region. The Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management is part of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and conducts interdisciplinary research, instruction, and extension education to address the sustainable management and conservation of the wildlife, forest, rangeland, and fishery resources of Oklahoma and beyond. The Department is a source of cutting-edge research, quality instruction, and effective outreach to students, landowners, managers, and public agencies.

Any offer of employment is contingent on the university’s verification of credentials and other information required by law and/or university policies, including but not limited to a criminal background check. Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions.