U. S. Geological Survey Assistant Unit Leader – Quantitative Ecologist/Biometrician

**Organization:** U. S. Geological Survey with non-tenure faculty appointment with the Department of Natural Resource Management, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences, South Dakota State University

**Position Overview**

The South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (SDCFWRU; [https://www1.usgs.gov/coopunits/unit/SouthDakota](https://www1.usgs.gov/coopunits/unit/SouthDakota)) was formed in 1984 by the merger of the South Dakota Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit (est. 1963) and the South Dakota Cooperative Fishery Research Unit (est. 1965). The South Dakota Unit exists by cooperative agreement among the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GFP), South Dakota State University (SDSU), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI). Unit scientists address research needs of the cooperating natural resource agencies and contribute to graduate academic programs at SDSU.

We seek a research scientist with strong quantitative skills to study the ecology and conservation of wildlife populations and associated ecosystems in South Dakota. In addition to the basic qualifications, desirable candidates will possess the following: 1) ability to build an applied research program focused on the quantitative ecology, management, and conservation of wildlife; 2) expertise in frequentist and Bayesian approaches to analytical techniques such as trend analysis, capture-recapture techniques, occupancy modeling, spatial analysis and habitat-dynamics modeling; competency in R and programming skills; 3) ability to conduct collaborative research on large-scale wildlife studies related to a changing climate and impacts of natural and human disturbance on their habitats; and 4) experience designing, planning, conducting and synthesizing results from field research.

The Assistant Unit Leader will serve in a dual capacity and will be employed by USGS and hold a separate SDSU faculty appointment without tenure at a professional level commensurate with experience. The faculty appointment will be made in the Department of Natural Resource Management within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES). All SDSU faculty engage in teaching, research, and service; Unit faculty generally teach one graduate level course per year.

South Dakota State University offers a rich academic environment of inclusion and access through student-centered education, creative activities, research and innovation. The Department of Natural Resource Management has B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degree programs. Faculty within the Department train students through five undergraduate programs: Conservation Planning and Park Management, Ecology and Environmental Science, Natural Resource Law Enforcement, Rangeland Ecology and Management, and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. There are approximately 350 undergraduates and 50 graduate students within the department. There are currently 17 faculty members in the Department of Natural Resource Management, including two USGS, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit scientists, in addition to four Extension Field Specialists located throughout the state. The department also has research support facilities within one mile of campus and at Oak Lake Field Station, approximately 30 minutes away near White, South Dakota.
Brookings, South Dakota is home to approximately 24,000 residents and is located 60 miles north of Sioux Falls and 200 miles west of Minneapolis. Livability.com rates Brookings as an ideal community for families, students, young professionals and retirees. It considers Brookings among the safest and most vibrant cities in South Dakota.

The Brookings Public School District educates approximately 3,300 K-12 students and ranks among the state’s highest academic achieving school districts. The district includes three elementary schools, an intermediate school for fourth and fifth grade, one middle school and a high school.

The city also boasts an abundance of attractions and activities, including the Children’s Museum of South Dakota, Dakota Nature Park, South Dakota Art Museum, McCrory Gardens, South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, Outdoor Adventure Center and the Brookings Summer Arts Festival.

The incumbent is expected to work closely with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Wildlife division. The Division’s robust research and management programs provide the prospect of leveraging considerable resources to study wildlife ecology and management in the Northern Great Plains.

Requirements: A Ph.D. in quantitative ecology/wildlife biology, natural resources, biology or related fields. One or more years of post-Ph.D. research experience in wildlife ecology or closely related areas. Candidates must be citizens of the USA.

Applicants will need to apply through USA Jobs and meet requirements for federal service.

Announcement 1: Open to current federal employees, or those eligible for reinstatement as federal employees: [https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/590582700](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/590582700)

Announcement 2: Open to the public: [https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/590582500](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/590582500)

Please direct questions about the position to Dr. Steve Chipps ([steven.chipps@sdstate.edu](mailto:steven.chipps@sdstate.edu); Unit Leader SDCFWRU).

**Equal Employment Opportunity Policy**

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.