M.S. Assistantship – Assessing risk for westward expansion of zebra mussels to guide early detection

**Agency/location:** Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Natural Resources, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

**Category:** Graduate Assistantship

**Salary:** $21,000 annually plus tuition and benefits

**Start date:** 08/09/2021

**Last date to apply:** 07/31/2021

**Description:** The Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Texas Tech University is seeking a master’s student to assess the risk of waterbodies as hubs for the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species with respect to habitat suitability and recreational use. The project will focus on lakes in western Texas and eastern New Mexico. Field and lab work will involve water physicochemistry sampling and analysis of lakes to assess habitat suitability. However, much of the research will rely on the student to develop computer-based risk assessment and model forecasting to facilitate monitoring efforts aimed at detecting aquatic invasive species. This project is funded by the U.S. Geological Survey Biological Threats Research Program. The student will have the ability to enhance the project creatively while also benefitting from interacting with partners in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other agency and academic professionals. The position includes funding for conference attendance for further professional development and networking opportunities.

**Qualifications:** B.S. in Ecology, Aquatic and Fisheries Biology, or related field in environmental sciences. Ability to work safely and productively as a respectful and inclusive team member. Preference will be given to applicants with previous experience working in freshwater ecosystems or invasive species biology and with strong quantitative background in statistical or spatial analysis. Demonstrated science communication through professional presentations or publications is beneficial. Members of traditionally underrepresented groups in environmental science are encouraged to apply.

**Closing date:** Review of applications will begin immediately and remain open until filled. Selected applicants will be encouraged to formally apply for graduate school at the Department of Natural Resources ([https://www.depts.ttu.edu/nrm/](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/nrm/)) for Fall 2021.

**Contact:** To apply email a letter of research interests and career goals, CV, unofficial transcripts, and contact information for three references to Dr. Jane Rogosch, Texas Cooperative Research Unit, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX at jrogosch@ttu.edu p: 806-834-8414 w: [https://www1.usgs.gov/coopunits/unit/Texas](https://www1.usgs.gov/coopunits/unit/Texas)