



M.S. Student: White-tailed Deer Contact Behavior

Description:

The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University invites applications for an M.S. Student based in the Boone and Crockett Quantitative Wildlife Center. This student's research project will focus on how landscape configuration influences late winter deer congregations in the upper Midwest agriculture region as an important process in disease transmission.

A concurrent field study previously fit GPS collars on deer and their locations will be used to guide collection of direct (deer observations) and indirect (fecal bioaccumulation) measures of deer contact. Student will engage local landowners and hunters, and use cameras, thermal infrared imaging, and drones to observe deer. The student will also participate in distance sampling to estimate deer densities. The student will work as part of a collaborative team of researchers at Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Qualifications:

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology or a related field, an aptitude for quantitative analysis, GIS experience, and excellent communication skills. Prior experience working with a state wildlife agency and collecting field data under extreme winter weather conditions is preferred.

Assistantship Details and Start Date:

This is a 2-year graduate research assistantship, which includes a \$22,000 annual stipend, tuition, and health benefits. Start date is January 1, 2021. An earlier start date may be possible.

Application Instructions:

For more information about this position, contact Dr. David Williams (dmwill@msu.edu).

Application must include a cover letter, CV, copy of undergraduate transcript (unofficial acceptable), GRE scores, and a list of three professional references. Submit applications to Dr. Rose Stewart (stewa684@msu.edu), with the subject line "Deer Behavior MS Student". A single PDF file is preferred. Please save the file in the following format: your last name_your first name_2020 (e.g., Leopold_Aldo_2020). Review of applications will begin September 21, 2020. Application must be received no later than October 5, 2020.