Postdoctoral Associate in Quantitative Wildlife Ecology at the University of Minnesota

We are looking for a quantitative wildlife ecologist to join our team to estimate white-tailed deer density and group size using camera traps. We are excited about recruiting an individual with specific skills in wildlife density estimation using camera traps, spatial ecology and GIS, statistical inference, and/or machine learning. The task of the new team member will be to estimate white-tailed deer density, group size, and habitat selection based on deer radio collar data and a 100 camera trap grid in suburban park reserves. The post-doctoral researcher will be responsible for coordinating a team to keep the cameras running, developing a data pipeline for the images, estimating local deer density and group size (seasonally if possible), and writing manuscripts. This postdoc would be part of a larger team to better understand white-tailed deer movement, habitat use, and disease dynamics at the suburban/agricultural interface. Additionally, this postdoc can work closely with a collaborative team of disease ecologists, movement ecologists, and veterinarians through a national SARS-CoV-2/Cervid Targeted Surveillance Team (https://www.targetedsurveillance.com/).

The full-time position is located in person at the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus) in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior. At the University of Minnesota, you will find a flexible work environment and supportive colleagues who are interested in lifelong learning. We prioritise work-life balance, allowing you to invest in the future of your career and in your life outside of work. The University also offers a comprehensive benefits package. This is a limited-term position funded for up to 2.5 years from date of hire pending performance. Start date is flexible, but summer or fall 2024 is preferable.

Percentage breakdown of duties:

- 20% Coordinates camera trap data collection
- 35% Develops analytical pipeline and estimates density and group size
- 35% Writes and submits manuscripts
- 10% Other duties including preparing and delivering presentations; conducting outreach with the public; and working closely with land managers

Salary: $62,000 - $65,000/year plus benefits.

Closing date: Until position filled

Qualifications: Competitive candidates should be highly motivated and possess a PhD in quantitative/spatial ecology of wildlife or a related discipline with a strong quantitative emphasis. The selected candidate must provide evidence all requirements have been met for the completion of the Ph.D. prior to the effective date of hire. Specific experience with Program R and methods in advanced spatial ecology/statistics is required. We would prefer a candidate who has analysed data from camera traps for density estimation and who has experience with Bayesian methodologies. The ability to work both independently and collaboratively in a team environment is essential. Submission to or publishing in peer-reviewed journals is required and mandatory prior to any potential renewal beyond the one-year appointment. Please provide: (1) a cover letter detailing your experiences for the qualifications above and how they have prepared you for this position, (2) a CV, (3) names and contact information of three professional references, and (4) two relevant publications. Please submit these materials to Dr. Meggan Craft (craft@umn.edu) as a single pdf. Applicants will need to also submit the same application materials to University of Minnesota's employment website by: 1) visiting https://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs, 2) "Apply for a job today" then choosing the option that corresponds to the applicant's situation/status, and 3) searching for Job ID 361827.