

Ph.D. Graduate Research Assistantship

Population-level Impacts of Chronic Wasting Disease on White-tailed Deer in Arkansas

Agency – Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia

Location – Northwest Arkansas and Athens, Georgia

Salary – approximately \$29,000 per year plus fringe benefits, and field housing and field transportation provided

Start date – Before August 15, 2021

Last date to apply – Open until filled

Description – This position will serve as a research team member on a long-term study focused on assessing population-level impacts of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) on a white-tailed deer population. The successful candidate will work closely with the principal investigators, another Ph.D. student, and a senior research associate to coordinate and conduct field research in northwest Arkansas, where CWD is highly prevalent and of significant management concern to agencies and landowners. Field work will involve capture of white-tailed deer using various capture techniques, immobilization of captured animals, GPS telemetry, capture and handling of neonates, collection of samples for diagnostic testing, monitoring of captured animals, organization of databases, and day-to-day operations of a field crew of technicians. The candidate will regularly communicate with state and federal agency personnel within the study area, as well as private landowners, press, and others with questions or concerns about the field research. The candidate will be co-advised by Dr. Michael Chamberlain and Dr. Gino D'Angelo and will collaborate with researchers in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia, the Prion Research Center at Colorado State University, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The successful candidate will develop multiple scientific manuscripts resulting from the study as part of their dissertation with additional opportunities for co-authorship as appropriate.

Duration – 4 years

Qualifications – Applicants should have an expressed interest in applied research to support population-level management of wildlife species. Desirable skills include experience in statistical modeling, spatial analyses, and excellent written and verbal communication skills. Applicants must have completed a Master's degree in Ecology, Wildlife Ecology, Biology or a closely related discipline. Additional requirements include a Bachelor's degree GPA >3.0, M.S. GPA >3.5, and GRE combined verbal and quantitative scores >300. The student will join a cohesive team of graduate research assistants investigating various aspects of wildlife ecology and management in the Warnell School. Additional requirements include fluency in English, valid driver's license, and willingness to work in hot, humid, and buggy field conditions. A motivation to embrace collaborative research is a must. Previous experience in remote field settings working with groups of students and technicians is a plus, but is not required. To be considered for this position, please send a cover letter outlining your interests, research background, and

career aspirations as they relate to this position; a resume or curriculum vitae; copies of transcripts (unofficial) for all institutions attended; unofficial copies of GRE scores; and contact information for 3 professional references (name, email, phone, address) combined into a single PDF file with the file name formatted as lastname_firstname_CWD_PhD to gdangelo@uga.edu. Review of applications will begin immediately and the position will remain open until filled.

Contact Person – Dr. Gino D’Angelo

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