



Assistant Professor Human Dimensions

POSITION: Assistant Professor of Human Dimensions of Wildlife, Fisheries and Natural Resources

The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture at Mississippi State University (MSU), invites applications for a full-time, 9-month tenure-track faculty position with 65% teaching and 35% research responsibilities. Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

LOCATION: This position is on the MSU campus in Starkville, Mississippi. A description of the MSU College of Forest Resources (CFR), the Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC), and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture can be found at <https://www.wildlifefisheries.msstate.edu/>

STARTING DATE: Spring-Summer 2026

REVIEW BEGINS: January 5th, 2026; Open Until Filled

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture at Mississippi State University (MSU) invites applications for a 9-month, tenure-track Assistant Professor in Human Dimensions of Wildlife, Fisheries and Natural Resources Conservation. This is a 65% teaching and 35% research appointment. We seek a candidate trained in the social sciences that has experience in coupled natural-human environments, which may include shaping policy related to natural resource management, and can integrate human dimensions with ecology and conservation. The successful candidate will develop a nationally and internationally recognized teaching and research program examining human dimensions, and/or policy, aspects of natural resource management, how people's attitudes, values, behaviors, and decision-making influence resource use, conservation, and sustainable management. Applicants will use frameworks from behavioral, social and human dimensions field to inform decision making processes related to wildlife and fisheries resource conflicts.

Teaching responsibilities are three face-to-face courses per year and include two semesters of fish and wildlife policy, one semester of human dimensions of wildlife and fisheries management, and an on-line graduate-level course on human dimensions that is part of our MS program in Conservation Education and is taught every other year. Additional expectations include advising undergraduate students, directing graduate committees, and mentoring graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

Research responsibilities include developing a robust, externally funded, interdisciplinary program that produces scholarly products including peer-reviewed publications, books and geospatial products that inform policy and management decisions. We recognize and value diverse forms of scholarly impact, including traditional academic publications, policy influence, stakeholder engagement, and public scholarship. Applied research should address real-world challenges faced by resource managers, landowners, policymakers, and the public, including issues at the interface of private and public lands, working landscapes, hunting and fishing heritage, and shifting recreational uses of natural resources. Collaboration is expected with other Mississippi State scientists, state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other partners who rely on MSU science to inform conservation outcomes.

The successful candidate is expected to contribute to service at the department, college, university, and professional society levels, consistent with MSU's land-grant mission.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Ph.D. in a related field demonstrating expertise in human dimensions, social sciences or policy sciences related fields including but not limited to wildlife, fisheries, and natural resource management, conservation, coupled natural-human systems, and human-wildlife interactions.
- Demonstrated excellence in teaching, communication, and organizational skills.
- Ability to develop and sustain extramural funding and publish scholarly products such as peer-reviewed journals.
- Commitment to engaged-teaching, mentoring, and service.
- Ability to collaborate across diverse scientific disciplines and stakeholder groups, and to build strong partnerships with regulatory and resource management agencies.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills and ability to work in team-oriented, interdisciplinary settings.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Training and experience in quantitative and/or qualitative social and political science methods, and public policy and administration applied to wildlife, fisheries, and natural resource management.
- Experience translating research findings for public policy and practitioner audiences.
- Experience with landowner and stakeholder survey methods
- Postdoctoral experience or equivalent professional experience.
- Teaching proficiency and capacity to develop new applied courses in human dimensions of natural resources.
- Research interests cross disciplinary lines and address pressing management and policy issues relevant to Mississippi and the broader southeastern U.S.
- Experience engaging diverse stakeholders such as private landowners, consumptive and non-consumptive recreationalists, rural and urban communities, policymakers, natural resource agencies and organizations, and other relevant groups.
- Experience securing extramural funding to support research and graduate training.

ABOUT THE STATE AND UNIVERSITY: The Southeastern U.S. hosts some of the greatest biodiversity in North America including numerous endangered and threatened species. Mississippi is

characterized by diverse terrains including broadleaf forests, oak savannas, prairie grasslands, temperate pine forests and delta wetlands, along with abundant waterways and coastal ecosystems. These rich landscapes provide habitat for hundreds of species of fishes, mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Mississippi is home to 11 national wildlife refuges, 6 national forests, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Natchez Scenic Trail, multiple national monuments, military parks, battlefields, several US Army Corps of Engineer reservoirs, 25 state parks, the Mississippi River, and 53 Wildlife Management areas. Mississippi State University is ranked as one of the top research institutions in the United States. The Carnegie Institute has designated MSU as an "R1 – very high research activity" doctoral granting institution. The National Science Foundation has MSU as ranked No. 12 nationally in Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation research expenditures with more than \$109 million spent annually. The 45-member faculty within the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture leads one of the most productive research programs in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. We are home to the Mississippi USGS Coop Unit of scientists, the Center for Human-Wildlife Conflict, the USDA Wildlife Services National Training Academy and four endowed faculty chairs. The department has a highly collegial and interdisciplinary group of faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and Research and Extension Associates that help make the department one of the premier institutions for applied wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture science in the nation. Annually, the department faculty bring in \$15-20 million in extramural funding. As one of the fastest growing undergraduate programs in the region, our 320+ undergraduate students concentrate in wildlife agriculture science, human-wildlife interactions, conservation biology, wildlife veterinary medicine, conservation law enforcement, and wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture science. The department also mentors over 100 graduate students across a variety of programs, with high job placement following receipt of a graduate degree.

APPLY: Applications must be submitted online at <http://explore.msujobs.msstate.edu/cw/en-us/listing/>; position (Job #509942) and should include a 1) cover letter, 2) curriculum vitae [include 4 references at end to contact], 3) Research statement and philosophy, 4) teaching statement and philosophy, and 5) unofficial or official transcripts for this phase of the application. Please send a duplicate package of the above material to the search chair Dr. Beth Baker at: beth.baker@msstate.edu . Questions regarding the position should be directed to Dr. Baker via her email above.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT:

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination is prohibited in university employment, programs or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status to the extent protected by applicable law. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Civil Rights Compliance, 231 Famous Maroon Band Street, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (662) 325-5839.

WHAT DO I DO IF I NEED AN ACCOMMODATION? In compliance with the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), if you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation in order to apply for a position with Mississippi State University, please contact the Department of Human Resources Management at tel: (662) 325-3713 or ada@hrm.msstate.edu. If you have any questions regarding this policy, contact the Department of Human Resources Management at (662) 325-3713 or ada@hrm.msstate.edu. Upon request, sections of this job listing are available in large print, and readers are available to assist the visually impaired.