MS Assistantship – Disease and bat community dynamics

We are currently looking to fill a MS position on the impact of disease on bat community dynamics. Specifically, the identified student will investigate the community-level response of bats in South Carolina and Georgia to white-nose syndrome. This project builds from recently completed research which revealed altered spatial and temporal niche partitioning in sympatric bat species in New York following the arrival of white-nose syndrome (Jachowski et al. 2014, Diversity and Distributions 20:1002-1015) and will evaluate the extent to which similar or divergent patterns exist in the southeastern US. To address these questions, the student will conduct bat acoustic monitoring surveys at 3 sites in the southeast, and collaborate with managers and scientists from sites in 8 different states to compile and analyze existing historical datasets.

The student will be based at Clemson University, and jointly advised by Dr. Susan Loeb and Dr. David Jachowski. Funding for the salary of the MS student is secured for 2 years. The position will start early-mid March 2016.

Applicants must possess a BS degree in wildlife biology, ecology or related field. Applicants should also have an interest in working with relatively large datasets to address community-level questions, and experience conducting field work involving acoustical detection of bats.

To apply, please email a single pdf with the subject line “Bat MS Assistantship” containing (1) a cover letter outlining your interests, experience, and contact information, (2) a resume or CV, (3) GRE scores, (4) undergraduate transcripts, and (5) contact information for 3 references to Dr. Susan Loeb at sloeb@clemson.edu. Deadline for applications is January 20, 2016

Susan C. Loeb, Research Ecologist
USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station
Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634
PH: 864-656-4865, Cell: 864-723-3494
E-mail: sloeb@clemson.edu or sloeb@fs.fed.us