Resource Scientist (Deer Biologist) at Central Regional Conservation Research Center, Columbia

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Employer: Missouri Department of Conservation

Location: Columbia, MO

Closing Date: 5/30/2016

Salary Range: $40,548 - $71,532

Beginning Salary: $40,548 - $46,488 depending upon qualification.

Duties and Responsibilities

The principle responsibility of this position will be to develop the technical and applied basis for private land deer management programs and regulations consistent with the statewide deer program goals and processes. In collaboration with private lands conservationists, the private lands deer biologist will work with groups of private landowners providing guidance and the technical tools to develop cooperative deer management programs that achieve desired deer population and habitat management objectives.

PRIVATE LAND DEER PROGRAM

The primary responsibility of this position is collaboration with Private Land Services’ personnel and private landowners in development and implementation of appropriate deer management strategies on private land. This program will include developing information and tools to help guide private landowners in deer management including holding public meetings throughout the state, surveys of other states to determine use of deer management assistance programs, development of a literature database on deer management strategies on private land, development of a user-friendly deer population model that can be used by Private Land Conservationists and wildlife management biologists in guiding harvest management on private and public land and assisting in development of deer census methodologies on private and public land. This position will work collaboratively with the state deer biologist to develop strategies and plans for population and harvest management on private land and for range wide monitoring and assessment.

RESEARCH

The research component of this position will include working within and outside MDC to help resource managers identify critical issues for evaluation, and use structured decision making and adaptive management principles to develop manager information needs into management evaluation (research) proposals and taking those proposals through a formal project review process. Will initiate, design, conduct and coordinate components of research projects dealing with a variety of topics (e.g., deer population status and distribution, disease, demographics, habitat associations, responses of populations to manipulation and management, public attitude and harvest surveys, development of management and restoration techniques), to provide high-quality, science-based information regarding
priority issues and to support local, regional and statewide management of Missouri's free-ranging white-tailed deer and associated wildlife resources.

INFORMATION TRANSFER

The deer biologist will be responsible for developing and conducting training and workshops for private landowners, managers, administrators, educators, other researchers and the public regarding private land deer management. Will provide statewide support for the Department as a specialist/spokesperson for private land deer management topics and serve as a species expert to advisory groups. Development of effective partnerships with all interested stakeholders is a key component of this program.

Effective writing and speaking skills are necessary to prepare and present regulation recommendations, final reports, journal manuscripts, intra-agency research and management notes and popular articles summarizing regulation recommendations, management recommendations, nuisance and disease issues, and scientific research projects for distribution to private landowners, managers, administrators, policy makers, educators, other researchers, granting agencies, the media and the public. Recommendations, research results, and technical guidance will be disseminated with emphasis on web-based applications. Additional duties in the program area include: communication of background and rationale for wildlife management recommendations, review of notices of intent and proposals for state legislators and Conservation Federation of Missouri resolutions and preparation of draft correspondence on issues requiring response for Director, Deputy Director, or Division Chief signature, preparation of Orders of Rulemaking for Missouri Wildlife Code recommendations and participation in the development of hunting season pamphlets for public distribution (e.g., Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Information).

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

The biologist will be responsible for developing an annual budget and work plan, tracking accomplishment of personal work objectives monthly and annually, posting progress and annual reports on shared server, and overseeing project database management, including meta-data. Additional activities in this area include: pursuing external grants to augment project funding, preparing Federal Aid and other reports as required, working with cooperators to renew cooperative agreements, tracking budgeting and invoice payments for cooperative agreements, recruiting, hiring and supervising temporary employees to assist with private lands and private landowner workshops and management evaluations. Supervision of temporary staff includes providing proper operational and safety training on all agency equipment and providing routine oversight of data collection and data entry accuracy.

Qualifications

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Wildlife Ecology/Management, or in a related biological science with substantial course work in wildlife ecology, statistics, ArcGIS software, and experimental design, and at least two (2) years of responsible professional experience in ecology, resource management or an equivalent combination of education
and experience. This position requires a broad range of education and experience relative to deer ecology and management, strong communication skills as well as a strong background in study design and statistical analysis.

Special Ability Requirements

Ability to:

Develop new insights into situations and apply innovative solutions that make improvements.

Establish comprehensive and realistic plans of action to accomplish activities and evaluate progress.

Maintain a productive, team-oriented atmosphere among peers and subordinates.

Develop and present programs to individuals and groups.

Travel frequently and stay overnight with moderate frequency.

Operate a motor vehicle and obtain a valid Driver License by date of employment.

Walk in rough terrain and work out-of-doors in extreme hot or cold temperatures

Work at night periodically.

Interpret aerial photos and topographical maps.

Effectively communicate complex ecological principles or technological applications to a variety of audiences.

Exemption Status/Special Notes

This position has been determined to be exempt according to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Employees must agree to accept compensatory time off in lieu of cash payments in accordance with the Department’s Compensatory Time Off and Overtime policy.

Smoking is prohibited in all owned, rented or leased Department of Conservation offices, buildings, and similar facilities, in Department aircraft, and in vehicles.

The Department of Conservation will hire only United States citizens and aliens authorized to work in the United States. All new employees will be required to complete an "Employment Eligibility Verification" (Form I-9) and produce requested documentation after employment.

 Candidates seeking initial employment must submit to a drug screen following offer of employment.

 All persons employed with the state of Missouri shall file all state income tax forms and pay all state income taxes owed.