Wildlife Health Specialist at Central Regional Conservation Research Center, Columbia

Employer: Missouri Department of Conservation

Closing: 5/11/2016

Salary Range: $36,084 - $63,588

Beginning Salary: $36,084 - $41,352 depending upon qualification.

Location: Columbia, MO

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Duties and Responsibilities

Assists in coordinating implementation of the Department’s Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance and Management Plan. Coordinates and conducts collection of tissue samples from hunter-harvested and road-killed deer and sampling of clinically suspect deer and elk. Assists in coordinating multi-divisional agency directed targeted culling efforts. Organizes and submits collected samples to appropriate diagnostic laboratories, ensures samples are processed in a timely manner, and that results are distributed according to the Plan. Provides assistance on communication efforts to Department staff and the public regarding changes to CWD regulations, surveillance efforts, and results. Maintains up-to-date knowledge on CWD, including the disease’s geographic expansion, new research and information about the disease, and how other states respond. Inventories and procures equipment and supplies, including coordination of needs and distribution of supplies, with Regional CWD team leaders. Organizes and enters data into Department’s CWD database. Assists in maintaining an over-arching geo-spatial CWD database to keep track of trends in surveillance efforts and track locations of infected deer. Maintains a list of licensed taxidermists and deer processors, coordinates sampling efforts with them, and receives invoices from them for collection of CWD samples, ensuring invoices are paid. Conducts training for Department field staff, taxidermists, and deer processors, and responds to questions from staff and general public regarding CWD surveillance efforts. Assists Wildlife Veterinarian with necropsies, collects and processes biological specimens, and coordinates shipment of material to diagnostic labs. Assists in providing communications regarding new information on wildlife diseases, regulation changes related to disease management, and maintaining up-to-date information on the Department’s webpage. Assists with development of a wildlife health database to inventory all wildlife disease diagnoses and testing, including data entry into database. Assists in coordinating surveillance and response for other wildlife health incidents (e.g., EHD, WNS, AI, etc.). Assists in conducting wildlife disease workshops and training to staff. Prepares popular articles, edits research newsletters, assists in writing scientific manuscripts and papers, and makes presentations at intra- and interstate technical meetings, and workshops with other state resource managers and scientists. Responds to requests for information about wildlife health and disease from Department staff, citizens, and special interest groups. Makes presentations to various groups, colleges and universities, media (TV, radio) and civic organizations. Stays current with wildlife health disease literature, including new or improved methods for surveillance and monitoring diseases, and conducts literature searches as required. Performs other duties as required.

Qualifications
Graduation from an accredited college or university with an M.S. in Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife Science, Biological Science, Zoology or closely related field, or B.S. with equivalent experience and two (2) years of professional experience with field sample collection or laboratory sample receiving. Demonstrated ability to organize, coordinate, multi-task, and keep precise records and field data. Supervisory skills and experience in data collection, and writing/oral communication skills. Competent in the use of computers and a variety of basic data analysis and display software (e.g., statistics, spreadsheets, word processing, graphics).

**Special Ability Requirements**

Demonstrate project management skills.
Understand CWD epidemiology.
Possess a working knowledge of GIS/GPS.
Maintain focus and intensity, and remain optimistic and persistent even under adversity.
Express oneself clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
Give overall guidance and direction to hourly staff and assure projects are carried out in achieving an efficient and productive operation.
Ability to work outside in adverse weather conditions and perform tasks requiring strenuous physical activity.
Work out-of-doors in extreme hot or cold temperatures.
Operate a motor vehicle.
Obtain a valid Driver License by date of hire.
Make multiple overnight trips on a weekly basis throughout the year.
Able to work long days (i.e., greater than eight hours), evenings, Saturdays and Sundays when needed.
Work with diseased or deceased wildlife.

**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.