Wildlife Health Specialist - Division of Fish and Wildlife

Job ID: 601954

Apply Before: 05/06/2016

Location: West Lafayette

Full/Part Time: Full-Time

Salary: $41,574.00

City/County/St: Indianapolis, Marion County, IN

To Apply

Job Description:

Incumbent functions at a professional level as the wildlife health specialist for the Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and reports directly to the Wildlife Science Program Manager. Incumbent applies expert knowledge, experience, and skills to develop, coordinate, implement, and evaluate comprehensive statewide programs for the prevention, detection, control, and management of known and emerging diseases of wildlife (i.e., mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians) in Indiana. Incumbent serves as the State’s wildlife health expert and represents the Department and Division in collaborative programs with academic institutions and state and federal agencies in investigations, monitoring, and research of diseases and other factors that affect the health and survival of wildlife of the State.

Responsibilities:

Identify, design, budget, conduct or coordinate, and evaluate statewide programs for the prevention, detection, control, and management of emergent and known diseases that occur in wildlife (i.e., mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians) in Indiana.

Compile, analyze, synthesize, and interpret information from surveillance programs as the foundation for the development of disease management plans, response plans, or related strategies to react to emergent and known wildlife diseases in the State.

Coordinate and integrate state-level wildlife disease monitoring efforts into regional and national surveillance programs.

Advise and represent the IDNR and DFW at technical and policy levels and serve as liaison to state agencies, federal agencies and academic institutions on all matters pertaining to the management of wildlife diseases in the state.
Coordinate with state, regional, and national diagnostic laboratories to ensure proper disease testing procedures are followed.

Provide professional consultation and support to Department and Division staff and, as needed, advise in research study design.

Prepare documents to secure state and federal grant funds for statewide wildlife health and disease programs.

Maintain wildlife health facilities and central databases on wildlife health and diseases in Indiana, including database development, data entry, and extraction.

Maintain and expand knowledge and technical expertise in wildlife disease and health management through active participation in professional organizations and societies (e.g., Wildlife Disease Association).

Prepare written reports and related documents to communicate program results including internal agency reports, peer-reviewed manuscripts, popular articles (Outdoor Indiana, press releases), newsletters, symposia and workshop proceedings, and those needed to fulfill grant-specific reporting requirements.

Draft correspondence on wildlife health and disease issues requiring the signature of the Governor, Department Director, Division Director, Wildlife Chief, or Wildlife Science Program Manager.

Prepare recommendations to introduce or modify Indiana Administrative Code, agency policies, or other legal statutes on all matters pertaining to the management of wildlife diseases in the State.

Maintain expertise on regulations and procedures to procure, store, and dispense controlled substances for the anesthesia, immobilization, and euthanasia of wildlife.

Develop and execute training programs to ensure agency staff can safely and effectively capture, restrain, and immobilize wildlife.

Train agency staff on sample collection methods for surveillance and investigation of wildlife mortality events.

Preferred Experience:

A DVM (preferred) or an MS (minimum) in Wildlife Ecology/Biology/Management with prior formal education and/or professional-level state or federal natural resource agency experience in wildlife health and conservation, wildlife disease ecology and management, wildlife pathology, or related field(s).

If DVM, licensed to practice Veterinary Medicine in Indiana or ability to obtain a license in the first 6 months.

Knowledge of diseases of wild mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians that occur in Indiana, including their symptoms, diagnosis, and treatments.
Knowledge of biological and ecological processes that affect the etiology, pathology, and epidemiology of wildlife diseases.

Knowledge of the transmission dynamics, ecology, and impacts of wildlife diseases and ability to apply these concepts in a population-level framework.

Skill in the investigation of wildlife mortality events, including necropsy of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians and collection of biological samples for diagnostic disease analyses.

Ability to safely operate and maintain program equipment including firearms and specialized capture and immobilization equipment and supplies.

Must be able to obtain a Drug Enforcement Agency registration for controlled substance Schedule(s) needed for the chemical immobilization of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians in Indiana.

Must be able to obtain a Controlled Substance Registration from the Indiana Board of Pharmacy.

Knowledge of research design, statistical analysis, and technical report writing.

Ability to communicate complex topics about wildlife health and disease management in a manner understood by the respective target audiences including the constituent groups, administrators, professional agency staff, academia, legislators, and the general public.

Additional Comments:

The position is anticipated to be located at the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Incumbent is expected to work closely with DFW administrators and field staff while developing broad, collaborative relationships with local, state, and federal agencies and other partners to advance the cause of wildlife disease prevention, surveillance, and control in Indiana. Duties are performed in a variety of situations including office and laboratory settings, field environments that may entail accessing difficult terrain and exposure to adverse weather conditions (extreme heat, cold, rain, snow, sleet). Work includes exposure to disease and other pathogens that may be harmful. Work involves travel in and out of state, including overnight travel, to assist with projects away from assigned work station.

Benefits:

The State of Indiana offers a comprehensive benefit package which includes:

Medical / Dental / Vision plans

Health Savings Account available - with Employer Contribution

Prescription Coverage

Employee Assistance Program

Employer-funded Retirement Plan
Deferred Compensation Plan with Employer Match
Flexible Spending Account
Work/life balance: 24 Paid Days Off and 12 Holidays, per year
Group Life Insurance
Qualified Employer for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
Want the specifics? Explore the Benefits of Working in State Government!

Note: As a security feature, this application will 'time out' after a period of inactivity. It is recommended that you open the above link and then return immediately to complete the remainder of the application.

**Equal Employment Opportunity:**

The State of Indiana is an Equal Opportunity Employer.