

Ph.D. Assistantship: Elk Population Ecology in New Mexico and Arizona

The New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at New Mexico State University is looking for a highly motivated and extremely hard-working Ph.D. student to assist with a large research project on elk population ecology in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. The study will include sex and age-specific estimation of cause-specific mortality and survival rates, population modeling, and habitat selection.

The selected student will apply to the Ph.D. program in the Department of Biology at New Mexico State University for August 2018 semester. Within the goals of the larger project and in consultation with the PI, the selected student will be given some flexibility to develop particular foci for their dissertation.

Candidates must have B.S. & M.S. degrees in Wildlife, Ecology, or a related field, an undergrad GPA exceeding 3.4, a M.S. GPA exceeding 3.8, and highly competitive GRE scores (e.g., >75% percentile on verbal and quantitative sections). Prior experience conducting field research on large mammals, working in remote locations, driving 4x4 vehicles, and substantial experience with radio telemetry in mountainous terrain is required. Applicants should have excellent quantitative skills and experience modeling vital rates of large herbivore populations. Experience managing large field crews and working collaboratively with personnel from state and federal wildlife agencies is also essential. Field work will be physically demanding and will often require hiking 5+ miles per day over rough terrain and occasional back country camping. The Ph.D. student will be expected to present research results at professional conferences and agency meetings, publish research results in a timely manner in peer-reviewed scientific outlets, and assist with preparation of agency reports and grant proposals.

To apply, please email a SINGLE PDF file that includes a letter of interest describing your experience as it relates to this project, a CV; transcripts, GRE scores (unofficial copies are fine at this stage), and the name and contact information of 3 references to Dr. James Cain at jwcain@nmsu.edu

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until a suitable candidate is found.

Salary: ~\$22,000 per year + out-of-state tuition waiver