Postdoctoral Scientist
Population Modeling for Gray Wolves in Washington State

Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
University of Washington

Gary Kramer, USFWS

POSITION: Postdoctoral Scientist
SALARY: $60,000/year or more commensurate with experience, plus benefits
EMPLOYMENT PERIOD: One year (with possibility of extension pending funding)
APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 15, 2020 or until filled
LOCATION: University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
TRAVEL: Occasional travel in Washington

POSITION SUMMARY:
We anticipate hiring a postdoctoral scientist to develop population modeling tools needed to inform the periodic status review of gray wolves in Washington State. The postdoctoral scientist will work closely with scientists and managers at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, in addition to the principal investigators, Drs. Sarah Converse and Beth Gardner, at University of Washington. The postdoctoral scientist will lead all aspects of the project on a day-to-day basis.

BACKGROUND AND DUTIES:
Gray wolves are listed as endangered in parts of the State of Washington. As part of their protection under Washington law, wolves must periodically undergo a status review. A variety of demographic

data are available to be analyzed and integrated into a population model that can be used to assess the status of wolves relative to identified recovery criteria. The overall goal is to develop a spatially-explicit population model for Washington's wolf population to inform the status review.

Desired outcomes include estimates of survival, recruitment, pack size, and dispersal, along with predicted probability of persistence, time to recovery, and population growth rate. The modeling approach will need to allow for simulation of scenarios including relocation and removal of wolves and will need to account for spatial variance statewide in habitat, prey, human disturbance, and livestock, among other factors.

MINIUMUM REQUIREMENTS:
1. Ph.D. in biology, ecology, or related field, with a focus on quantitative methods in population ecology.
2. Experience with demographic studies.
3. Demonstrated proficiency with R and excellent programming skills.
4. Demonstrated desire and proven ability to publish in peer-reviewed journals.
5. Excellent written and personal communication skills.
6. The ability to work both independently and collaboratively, and the ability to meet deadlines.

DESIRED ABILITIES:
Competitive candidates will have a strong background in development of hierarchical models for analysis of demographic data and population models. Desirable skills and abilities include: experience developing Bayesian integrated population models; experience with spatial data in R or GIS; experience analyzing a variety of monitoring data types; experience with population models and population viability analysis; and experience working with management agencies.

TO APPLY:
Applicants should email (in a single pdf document): (1) a letter describing background and interests – the letter should address specifically how the applicant meets both the minimum requirements and the desired abilities, (2) curriculum vitae, (3) a technical writing sample, and (4) the names and contact information (phone, email, address) for 3 references to Dr. Sarah Converse (sconver@uw.edu). For further information, contact: Sarah Converse (sconver@uw.edu, 206-221-5791, depts.washington.edu/qcons/) or Beth Gardner (bg43@uw.edu, 206-685-9995, depts.washington.edu/sefsqel).