

M.S. Graduate Assistantship in Forest Wildlife Ecology at Oklahoma State University

Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK

M.S. Graduate Assistantship: Using camera traps to estimate animal demography

The Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University seeks candidates for an M.S. graduate research assistantship to lead a project investigating demography of white-tailed deer and wild turkey using camera traps. The project will focus on estimating density and recruitment in forested systems of Oklahoma using unmarked methods. The student will conduct fieldwork, conduct analyses, and lead peer-reviewed publications summarizing the results. The student will have opportunities to collaborate with other faculty and students and to explore their own research questions in conjunction with the M.S. project.

The Chitwood Lab is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are committed to fostering an environment where diversity of background and thought is accepted and encouraged. We encourage all interested people to apply despite preconceived notions of their own experience as it relates to this project's objectives.

Oklahoma State University (OSU) is located in Stillwater, Oklahoma, which is midway between Tulsa and Oklahoma City. OSU is a land-grant institution with an enrollment of about 25,000 students, and it is located on the ancestral lands of the Kickapoo, Osage, Kiowa, and Quapaw peoples. Indigenous people from other Native nations also reside here, many of whom were forcibly removed from their ancestral lands. They all contribute to the history and current vitality of our region. The Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management is part of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and conducts interdisciplinary research, instruction, and extension education to address the sustainable management and conservation of the wildlife, forest, rangeland, and fishery resources of Oklahoma and beyond. The Department is a source of cutting-edge research, quality instruction, and effective outreach to students, landowners, managers, and public agencies.

The M.S. position is available beginning June 1, 2021. It includes a graduate stipend of \$16,500 annually, resident and non-resident tuition waiver, and health insurance at \$20 per month (for student only; family coverage available for an additional fee). It also includes a \$200/month (\$2,400/year) additive stipend meant to offset the cost of out-of-pocket student fees, which brings the total stipend amount to \$18,900 annually. Applicants should have a B.S. in wildlife ecology or conservation, forestry, natural resource ecology, environmental sciences, or a related field. Applicants should have a GPA of 3.0 or greater and have taken the GRE, as required by the Department and the Graduate College. Desired qualifications include experience conducting field research, interest in quantitative ecology, and interest in big game ecology. Experience with camera trapping, data management, and R programming is desirable but not essential. Oklahoma State University requires background checks for all newly hired graduate assistants, and they will be conducted prior to employment (i.e., post-offer and pre-employment).

Interested individuals should contact Dr. Colter Chitwood (colter.chitwood@okstate.edu) with questions. To apply, please send Dr. Chitwood an email with the following in a single PDF attachment: letter of interest, current CV (including GPA and GRE scores), contact information for three references, and unofficial transcripts. Please use the subject line “Camera Trap Assistantship” for the submission email. Review of applications will begin March 22, 2021, and continue until a successful applicant is identified.