MS/PhD assistantship: noninvasive genetic estimation of deer abundance

Agency
University of California, Davis

Location
Davis, California and Sierra Nevada near Lake Tahoe

Job Category
graduate assistantship

website
http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/cdcg/home.php

Salary
Stipend + tuition and fees through combination of fellowships, teaching assistantships, research assistantships

Start Date
Field work begins 3/1/2013; Classes begin in Fall 2013

Last Date to Apply
012/15/2012 (Admissions deadline for UC Davis Ecology Graduate Group)

Description
Seeking a MS or PhD candidate through the Graduate Group in Ecology at University of California, Davis. Student will work with faculty and natural resource agency personnel to conduct a study aimed at estimating deer abundance through the application of noninvasive genetic and genetic capture-mark-recapture approaches. The study area is in the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the summer range of a migratory deer herd. The project involves establishment of transects and regular collections of pellet groups, genetic analyses of deer pellets, data analysis, modifications and tests of study design, and writing of reports, a thesis, and peer reviewed publications. Expansions to additional related questions will be encouraged for MS students and required for PhD students. Must apply separately to the GGE at UC Davis; hard deadline is December 15, 2012 (http://ecology.ucdavis.edu/admission/). Field work will begin in March 1, 2013 with the academic work to begin Fall 2013. Interested applicants should send ASAP a statement of interest, current CV, unofficial transcripts, undergraduate GPA, GRE scores and the names of 3 references via email to Dr. Ben Sacks, bnsacks@ucdavis.edu

Qualifications
Acceptance to the Graduate Group in Ecology for fall 2013; strong academic record and quantitative skills, BS in biology or related discipline, undergraduate GPA ≥ 3.6, and GRE > 70th percentile. Preferred candidates will have a strong interest in application of noninvasive genetic techniques, population biology, and wildlife ecology, preferably with field experience in wildlife ecology or related field. The applicant must be willing to work extended hours in adverse conditions at elevations up to 11,000 feet, have basic wilderness experience (field work, strenuous hiking in rain or snow), and ability to coordinate the activities of field assistants and student interns. May require camping in tents or rustic field conditions during 3-month field seasons (Apr—Jun). Applicant must have a driver’s license and ability to drive 4WD vehicles on unpaved roads, and to navigate on foot with a GPS. Review of applications will begin immediately and the position will be filled when the desired applicant is found.