

MS Assistantship – Freshwater Mussel Conservation (OK)

Title: Quantifying freshwater mussel abundance and composition in two prairie rivers of northern Oklahoma

Agency: Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management

Location: Stillwater, OK

Job Description: Prairie rivers of northern Oklahoma such as the Verdigris and Caney rivers harbor a diverse assemblage of freshwater mussels, but drivers of their abundance and composition are not well known. This project will work closely with biologists from Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and US Fish and Wildlife Service to identify freshwater mussel habitat within the Verdigris and Caney rivers of northern Oklahoma and use quantitative sampling to estimate density and community composition. Calculation of detection and occupancy estimates among mesohabitat types will aid development of future monitoring efforts. Start date is January 2023.

Oklahoma State University (OSU) is located in Stillwater, Oklahoma, which is within an hour of both Tulsa and Oklahoma City. OSU is a land-grant institution with an enrollment of ~25,000 students, and it is located on the ancestral lands of the Kickapoo, Osage, Kiowa, and Quapaw peoples. 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.

Qualifications: BS degree in fisheries, ecology, or related field, GPA > 3.0, and competitive GRE scores. Work will include snorkeling and SCUBA to survey for freshwater mussels along with boats/canoes/kayaks to navigate rivers in northern Oklahoma and collect side-scan-sonar data to be used in a GIS. The successful applicant will be highly motivated, able to work independently and in a group setting. Experience working with freshwater mussels, snorkeling and SCUBA, side-scan-sonar, and GIS is highly desirable.

To apply: Send resume/CV, a letter stating interest and qualifications, unofficial transcripts, unofficial GRE scores, and three references to Jim Long, Unit Leader, Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (see contact info below). Applications are screened as they are received but should arrive by August 31, 2022 to receive full consideration. Questions and inquiries prior to applying are welcome.

Any offer of employment is contingent on the university's verification of credentials and other information required by law and/or university policies, including but not limited to a criminal background check. Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions.

Salary: \$1,500/month, resident and non-resident tuition waiver, and health insurance at \$20 per month (for student only; family coverage is available for an additional fee).

Last Date to Apply: August 31, 2022

Website: <https://www1.usgs.gov/coopunits/unit/Oklahoma>

Contact: Dr. Jim Long

Address: US Geological Survey, Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 007 AGH, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078

Email: longjm@okstate.edu (preferred); jmlong@usgs.gov

Phone: (405) 744-6342