Graduate Assistantship (Ph.D.) Texas Tech University: Disease Risk Modeling and Genetic Structuring of Desert Bighorn Sheep in Texas

The Department of Natural Resources Management and the Department of Biological Sciences at Texas Tech University is seeking a highly motivated, talented and hard-working graduate student (Ph.D.). The field research portions of their dissertation will be conducted in Texas in collaboration with colleagues from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The Texas Bighorn Society, The Wild Sheep Foundation, and private landowners. The selected student will be expected to develop and focus their dissertation research on desert bighorn sheep population reconstruction and disease risk probability modeling that integrates metagenomics, in conjunction with current surveillance and restoration efforts within Texas. Depending upon timing of candidate selection, the student may be initially hired as a Research Associate during the Fall 2017 semester, and then begin the formal Graduate Research Assistantship in January 2018. The Ph.D. graduate stipend will be $20-$22,000/year (depending upon experience and budget flexibility) and will include insurance and out-of-state tuition and fee waiver; in-state tuition is not waived.

Candidates must have a M.S. degree; ideally in Wildlife Ecology, Biology, or a related field, a GPA > 3.3, competitive GRE scores (> 300 verbal + quantitative), and a valid U.S driver's license. Prior experience conducting field research on large mammals is preferred; however familiarity and experience with molecular techniques, and disease ecology is critical. Use of GIS technology and geospatial analyses experience is also preferred. The selected student will be required to present research results at professional conferences, publish research results in peer-reviewed scientific publications, and assist with preparation of project reports and grant proposals.

To apply, please email a single PDF file that includes a cover letter describing your (a) interest and experience as it relates to this project and (b) reason(s) for pursuing a Ph.D.; a current curriculum vitae; transcripts (unofficial); GRE scores (unofficial), and names and contact information of 3 references to Dr. Warren Conway warren.conway@ttu.edu , Dr. Robert Bradley robert.bradley@ttu.edu, and Dr. Caleb Phillips caleb.phillips@ttu.edu

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