Field Research Technician– MSU Wild-Domestic Sheep Comingling Study

Term: 9 months, 40 hrs/wk. (fixed-term temporary worker position)

Salary: Up to $20.43/hour, depending on experience

Location: Bozeman, MT

Start date: Late Aug/Early Sept

General Statement:

The field research technician will work with a team of academic researchers, extension faculty, landowners, sheep and goat producers, graduate students, and agency personnel to implement a collaborative research project evaluating contact risk between wild and domestic sheep in Montana. The purpose of this project is to identify factors that influence the probability of wild and domestic sheep contact, and to use that information to expand the development and implementation of tools that mitigate the likelihood of contact and potential pathogen spillover. Research activities will be lead by Smith Wells, research associate at Montana State University, and a field research assistant. The project will be co-directed by Jared Beaver and Brent Roeder at Montana State University and Emily Almberg at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Duties and Responsibilities:

* Contact domestic sheep and goat producers and collect animal husbandry data.
* Conduct field-based observations of wild-domestic sheep comingling events, including visual observations and remote camera deployments. Field operations will often be initiated with short notice and at irregular hours when close contacts are documented or anticipated.
* Visit field locations regularly (apx. monthly) to check remote cameras and check in with sheep producers. Field visits will involve close coordination and data review with producers.
* Manage deployed GPS collars on domestic sheep, including mortality checks, redeployments, and collar collection.
* Work in close coordination with sheep producers, landowners, and wildlife biologists on project communication, data collection, data management, field response, and outreach. Solve problems and resolve conflicts as they arise in the field.
* Travel frequently across southwest Montana to conduct fieldwork, working independently in remote areas.
* Monitor domestic and wild sheep locations daily through web-based applications.
* Assist with reviewing and managing remote camera images.
* Potential opportunities to assist FWP with bighorn sheep research activities.

Required Qualifications –Experience, Education, Knowledge & Skills:

* Education and/or professional experience in rangeland or wildlife management (or associated field) with demonstrated knowledge and experience in application of wildlife and natural community management in rangeland systems.
* Experience working outdoors, under varied climatic conditions, and in remote areas with rugged terrain.
* Prompt and effective communication and relationship-building skills using in-person, email, and phone communications.
* Effective computer skills (word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and GIS software).
* Experience locating animal tracking units in the field using a VHF receiver and field navigation skills.
* Experience operating 4WD vehicles on unmaintained roads and uneven terrain.
* Experience operating heavy equipment, hauling equipment using trailers, and diagnosing mechanical issues.
* Must possess a valid driver’s license at time of hire and must be able to comply and adhere to applicable state and university rules, laws, standards, and policies.

Physical Demands:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily with or without reasonable accommodations. The requirements listed above are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required.

**Please email a CV/resume and cover letter to Smith Wells by August 10th. Applications will be evaluated as they are received.**

Smith Wells

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