



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE,  
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

## **Assistant/Associate Professor of Wildlife Disease Ecology and One Health**

**POSITION:** Assistant/Associate Professor of Wildlife Disease Ecology and One Health

The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture at Mississippi State University (MSU), is seeking applications for a full time, 9-month tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant/Associate Professor rank. This person will be involved in 70% research and 30% teaching. Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**LOCATION:** This position is on the MSU campus, located in Starkville, Mississippi. A description of the College of Forest Resources (CFR), the Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC), and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture can be found at <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/wildlife>

**STARTING:** Spring - Summer 2023 (May 01, 2023, or negotiated)

**REVIEW:** Begins November 15th, 2022; Open Until Filled

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** We seek a wildlife disease and One Health ecologist interested in both terrestrial and/or aquatic vertebrates whose research will span observational, experimental and/or molecular approaches including spatial and hierarchical statistical modeling to address applied questions of disease ecology within the context of One Health. Potential areas of research include spatial and behavioral epidemiology, zoonotics, virology, vector-parasite coevolution, emerging infectious diseases, host-pathogen systems, vector range expansion, toxicology and disease or pathogen genomics. Assisting state/federal agencies with wildlife plans to manage or mitigate disease outbreaks would be a valuable component of this position. The applicant will have opportunities to study disease dynamics in both natural and semi-natural environments within a multi-disciplinary group focused on One Health, with the goal to integrate epidemiological, ecological, genetic and socioeconomic factors. Studying how habitat degradation, environmental perturbations, wildlife trade, exotic species or climate change impacts disease emergence, re-emergence or movement across landscapes are of great interest.

The new team member should be able to contribute to a diverse faculty group and demonstrate how their research and teaching program will complement and enrich the department. The primary responsibilities of this position will be the development of a productive, externally-funded, and nationally/internationally recognized research program, publishing high-impact journal articles, effective mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students, serving on committees, participating in professional societies, organizing outreach activities to wildlife or One Health stakeholders, and teaching within the Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture program. Teaching responsibilities may include one or more undergraduate/graduate courses per semester

consistent with the candidate's expertise and departmental need. Other responsibilities will include advising for the wildlife pre-vet concentration, helping to incorporate One Health concepts into the department, use existing funds for international work (research, study abroad, etc.), and help meet the needs of partners/collaborators associated with our growing MSU Wildlife Disease program (e.g. U.S. Forest Service International Programs, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, U.S.D.A APHIS-Wildlife Services-National Wildlife Research Center, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, etc.).

**QUALIFICATIONS:** We are seeking either PhD or dual DVM/PhD applicants that have published in the field of wildlife disease ecology. Excellence in teaching, communication and organizational skills, peer-reviewed publications, and a commitment to service are expected. The candidate must demonstrate the ability to collaborate with diverse scientific disciplines, various stakeholder groups, and federal and state natural resource agencies to support long-term partnerships. The candidate must also be willing to develop a program with international, national and regional scope; an international component is important to our team and collaborators.

**PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Postdoctoral, federal or state agency research experience is preferred, as is procurement of extramural funds to accomplish research, facilitation of graduate students, and mentoring and teaching experience. Preference will be given to candidates whose research naturally crosses disciplinary lines.

**ABOUT THE STATE AND UNIVERSITY:** The Southeastern U.S. hosts some of the greatest species biodiversity in North America including numerous endangered and threatened species; many of these species are threatened by emerging pathogens, contaminants and invasive species. Some recent and ongoing disease invasions in Mississippi include chronic wasting disease, white-nose syndrome, ranavirus, chytrid, avian influenza and various vector-borne pathogens with zoonotic potential. Mississippi State University is ranked as one of the top research institutions in the United States. The Carnegie Institute has designated MSU as a "R1 – very high research activity" doctoral granting institution. The National Science Foundation has MSU as ranked No. 12 nationally in Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation research expenditures with more than \$109 million spent annually. The 35-member faculty within the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture leads one of the most productive research programs in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. The department has a highly collegial and interdisciplinary group of faculty, post-doctoral fellows, research and Extension associates that help make the department one of the premier institutions for applied wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture science in the nation. As one of the fastest growing undergraduate programs in the region, our 320+ undergraduate students concentrate in wildlife agriculture science, human-wildlife interactions, conservation biology, wildlife veterinary medicine, conservation law enforcement, and wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture science. The department also mentors over 80 graduate students across a variety of programs, with high job placement following receipt of a graduate degree.

**APPLY:** Applications must be submitted online at <http://explore.msujobs.msstate.edu/cw/en-us/listing/>; position (PARF #504895) and should include a 1) cover letter, 2) curriculum vitae, 3) research statement and philosophy emphasizing linkage to One Health, 4) teaching statement and philosophy, and 5) un-official or official transcripts for this phase of the application.

Please send a duplicate package of the above material to the search chair Dr. Steve Demarais at: [steve.demarais@msstate.edu](mailto:steve.demarais@msstate.edu) Any questions regarding the position should be directed to the chair.

**Equal Employment Opportunity Statement:**

*MSU is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy, gender identity, status as a U.S. veteran, and/or any other status protected by applicable law. We always welcome nominations and*

applications from women, members of any minority group, and others who share our passion for building a diverse community that reflects the diversity in our student population.

***What do I do if I need an accommodation?***

*In compliance with the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), if you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation in order to apply for a position with Mississippi State University, please contact the Department of Human Resources Management at tel: (662) 325-3713 or [ada@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:ada@hrm.msstate.edu).*

*If you have any questions regarding this policy, contact the Department of Human Resources Management at (662) 325-3713 or [ada@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:ada@hrm.msstate.edu). Upon request, sections of this job listing are available in large print, and readers are available to assist the visually impaired.*