Contract Student Fisheries Position (Summer 2019, potentially longer)
U.S. Geological Survey
Fort Peck, Montana

Duties

The undergraduate student or recent graduate (Student Contractor) will assist a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Project Scientist and other research team members in a research examining migrations, reproduction, and early life history of federally endangered pallid sturgeon in the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers of Montana and North Dakota. The Student Contractor will be expected to assist in multiple field and laboratory activities including: using radio telemetry technology to identify locations and movements of pallid sturgeon, recording telemetry data on boat-mounted computers, capturing pallid sturgeon and other fishes using nets and trawls, collecting pallid sturgeon eggs, free embryos, and larvae, assessing habitat attributes used by pallid sturgeon, deploying and operating various instruments to assess habitat quality and water quality parameters, identifying larval fishes, data entry, and operating and maintaining vehicles and boats.

Requirements

The Student Contractor for this position must have completed at least two years of academic coursework in fisheries science, ecology, or a closely related discipline. Individuals who earned undergraduate or graduate degrees in these disciplines within the last year are also considered students eligible for the position. Knowledge is required in principles of fisheries ecology and aquatic ecology. Previous experiences using radio telemetry and fish sampling gears in rivers are desirable. Exceptional inter-personal skills are required. The Student Contractor must be a licensed driver, as operation of Government vehicles will be required. Experience in operating boats on rivers, and routine maintenance of vehicles and outboard motors is desirable.

Working Conditions

The majority of work is performed in a field setting where boats will be trailered to the river, and the Student Contractor will be on-board the boat under a range of weather and temperature conditions. River conditions can be dangerous as high water velocities, debris, and obstructions are common. Physical demands during deployment of telemetry gear and fish sampling gear require heavy lifting (up to 50 pounds). Exposure to nuisance insects is expected. The Student Contractor is advised that continuous work in the field may persist for several weeks, and that work days will normally be greater than 8 hours. When not in the field, the Student Contractor will work in an office or laboratory setting using computers and microscopes.
**Hours and Compensation:**

The anticipated start date for this position is on or about May 6, 2019 and the position will continue to or about August 24, 2019, with start and end date flexibility depending on university class schedules. The total number of hours worked shall not exceed an estimated 800 hours. The position may be extended for longer duration.

Compensation: $15.38/hour

The USGS will provide Government transportation to and from the field investigation sites(s). Meals/cost of food/lodging while at field investigation sites will be provided by the USGS in the same manner as for Federal employees, in accordance with the Government Travel Regulations. The Government does not provide housing, meals or living expenses while residing at the principal duty station.

**Principal Duty Station:**


**How to Apply:**

Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume that includes: full legal name of the student, mailing address, telephone number, email address, date of birth, place of birth, citizenship (if not a US citizen, provide immigration/VISA status), education (including descriptions of relevant classes), work or volunteer experience related to the scientific field, and contact information for references. In addition, a copy of the most recent transcript listing courses taken and the student’s overall GPA should be submitted. Application materials may be submitted by mail or email by February 25, 2019 to:

Dr. Patrick J. Braaten
U. S. Geological Survey
P.O. Box 165
Fort Peck, Montana 59223
Email: pbraaten@usgs.gov
Inquiry by email or phone is invited (406/526-3253)

Applicant selected for the Student Contract position will be subject to a background investigation in accordance with U. S. Government Regulations.