

MS Assistantship – Trout Fishery Survey (OK)

Title: Evaluating socioeconomic responses by anglers to alternative stocking strategies for maintaining trout fishing at the Lower Mountain Fork River, Oklahoma

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

Location: Stillwater, OK

Job Description: The Lower Mountain Fork River (LMFR) below Broken Bow Dam in southeastern Oklahoma is one of two year-round trout fisheries in the state and the potential for a wild Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) fishery might exist. This project will work closely with biologists from Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to survey anglers for their response to changes to the management of the trout program, which has the potential to create ripples throughout the economy. A current understanding of angler use and satisfaction in conjunction with economics data will provide the state with valuable information to manage this unique fishery resource. Start date is January 2024.

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 surveys of anglers to gauge acceptance of altered management strategies. The incumbent will work closely with another MS student in the Agriculture Economics department and will supervise technicians to collect human dimensions data. The successful applicant will be highly motivated, able to work independently and in a group setting. Experience conducting creel surveys and stocked fisheries 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 October 15, 2023 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: \$1,833/month, including resident and non-resident tuition waiver.

Last Date to Apply: October 15, 2023

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