

Ph.D. Assistantships (2): Conservation Genomics and Habitat Selection of Greater Prairie Chickens

We are seeking candidates (2) for Doctor of Philosophy assistantships at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Kansas State University. The students will develop large multi-locus genomic and collect telemetry and vegetation datasets to conduct analyses to evaluate the influence of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grasslands on greater prairie-chicken populations in Kansas and Nebraska. The project will produce actionable science with the results of this multi-faceted study informing management actions on habitat and CRP as well as Greater Prairie Chickens in the region. The successful candidate will be involved in intensive field (capture, monitoring of transmittered individuals and nests, and vegetation surveys) and laboratory work (genomic data collection). This is a collaborative project, as such, the successful candidate will work with a team of students, technicians, private landowners, university faculty, and state biologists.

Start Date: Oct 1, 2024 - Jan 2, 2025 (flexible)

Salary: Research assistantship for 4 years. Tuition and health insurance will be covered by the project. Students are responsible for student fees outside of tuition.

Qualifications: Master of Science in biology, ecology, evolution, wildlife, spatial science, or other relevant discipline. Experience with molecular biology techniques, avian capture methods, and coding in R or python is desirable. A willingness to learn, attention to detail, and a strong work ethic are essential.

How to Apply: Please e-mail a cover letter, CV, unofficial transcripts, and names and contact information of three references (preferably as a single PDF) to Sarah Sonsthagen (ssonsthagen2@unl.edu) and Dan Sullins (sullins@ksu.edu) with the subject line as "Prairie-chicken GRA last name". If possible, please include a writing example (published manuscript, official report, etc). Review of applications will begin late August, 2024 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

Kansas State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer of individuals with disabilities, protected veterans and actively seeks diversity among its employees. Background check is required. UNL and NECFWRU values equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Sarah Sonsthagen <ssonsthagen2@unl.edu>

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