

Graduate Assistantship for a PhD student at the University of Idaho (Moscow, Idaho) working with Dr. David Ausband at the Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

The student's research will focus on the potential effects of harvest (hunting and trapping) on gray wolves in Idaho, USA. The student will add to an existing long-term (18 years) genetic dataset and use the resulting data stream to assess the potential effects of harvest on wolf group stability including group size, composition, reproduction, and persistence. The student will have some flexibility regarding research questions provided they contribute to our understanding of how harvest potentially affects gray wolves and other cooperative breeders. Student will conduct noninvasive genetic surveys for wolves in four study areas in Idaho and spearhead genetic analyses of collected samples.

This student will be part of a partnership with the Jackson Fork Ranch-University of Idaho research project. A key aspect of this partnership is to enhance science communication and help address the disconnect between science and public understanding. The student should be articulate and able to explain complex scientific material in plain terms to enhance general understanding. The student will work with a professional film company, including on camera performances, to produce a documentary about the wolf research that may be distributed widely (e.g., TV, streaming services).

Student would begin by June 1, 2024 as a member of the summer field crew to learn the study areas, packs, and field survey protocols from the research specialist and current graduate students on the project. Student would start classes on campus in fall 2024. Funding includes a student stipend of approximately \$25K/yr plus all tuition, fees, and health insurance.

For more information on Dr. Ausband's work: (<https://www.idahowolfproject.org>). The town of Moscow, Idaho is a vibrant, small community (25K) with an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities near town and throughout the National Forests of Idaho.

Qualifications: MSc degree in Wildlife Biology or related field (e.g., Biology, Zoology, etc.) and undergraduate GPA of >3.0.

Ideal candidates will have a desire to learn and grow both as a person and a scientist. Strong candidates will possess a keen interest in mastering the scientific process as well as the creativity to develop and pursue answers to questions that merit a doctorate degree. Candidates should have a strong work ethic, experience conducting field-based wildlife research, and excellent written and interpersonal skills. Knowledge of genetics or genomics and experience working for/with wildlife management agencies are beneficial.

To apply, please send the following materials via email with "**wolf PhD**" as the subject line to Dr. David Ausband (dausband@uidaho.edu): (1) Cover letter explaining career goals and academic interests highlighting relevant experience, (2) resume with contact information for ≥ 3 references, and (3) unofficial copy of transcripts.

Closing date: February 19, 2024 at 5 p.m. PST