

Ph.D. Assistantship
Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management
Oklahoma State University

Stipend: \$20,000/annum.

Start date: August 2006.

Requirements: $\geq 1,000$ GRE (verbal + quantitative), ≥ 3.5 GPA for Masters work.

Useful skills: Experience in GIS and GPS technology, experience in technical writing and presentations, ability to get along with people.

Project description: Two major issues affect wildlife conservation and management in central and western Oklahoma. These include declining grassland bird populations and collapsing rural economies. Wildlife could stimulate rural economies through ecotourism and, in the case of northern bobwhites, fee-lease hunting. Bobwhites require ample amounts of woody cover, which reduces the grazing capacity of rangelands. Also, at some point, woody cover becomes inimical to grassland bird populations.

The overall objective of this project is to determine how different levels of sand plum canopy coverage affect bird communities on private ranchland of central and western Oklahoma. A secondary objective is to assess the economic implications of the results. The student will have ample opportunity to generate and test original research hypotheses within the general framework of the study.

Project leaders: Dr. Fred S. Guthery, Wildlife Ecology; Dr. Sam Fuhlendorf, Landscape Ecology; Dr. David Lewis, Forest Economics.

The new Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management will start 1 July 2006. It will have faculty in fisheries, forestry, range, and wildlife. At start up, the department will consist of about 150 undergraduates, 50 graduate students, and 20–25 faculty.

Oklahoma State University website: <http://www.pio.okstate.edu>

Bollenbach Chair (Fred S. Guthery) website: <http://bollenbachchair.okstate.edu>

Further information:

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