



Job Description – Research Fellowship

The Memphis Zoo is seeking a highly qualified individual for an 18-month Research Fellowship for a collaborative project optimizing current practices and developing new technologies to assist in the recovery of the federally Threatened Louisiana pinesnake. In 2010, the Memphis Zoo joined forces with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to release zoo-bred Louisiana pinesnakes onto restored habitat. The USFWS has provided funding to implement two Recovery Plan Actions: refine and implement technologies for propagating the Louisiana pinesnake in captivity, and to assist with efforts to transmit genetic material between wild and captive populations to increase the genetic variability of the captive population, which is based on relatively few founders.

In collaboration with the Senior Conservation Scientist, the Research Fellow will develop species-specific reproductive technologies for the Louisiana pinesnake, which may include semen extraction and analysis, cryopreservation, artificial insemination, reproductive hormone monitoring, and gonadal development monitoring using ultrasound. The Memphis Zoo maintains an endocrinology lab and a frozen gene bank for endangered wildlife, which are resources available to this position. The zoo population of pinesnakes, held by four facilities including the Memphis Zoo, will be used to develop and test new techniques, which will then be applied in the field. The technologies must be effective and practical in the field, and this may require the development and testing of novel methodologies. This position includes a research budget, travel to field sites partner institutions, and conferences, and numerous professional development opportunities.

Minimum Requirements:

- PhD in biological sciences, wildlife biology, animal science, or related field. Master's level candidates with appropriate research experience will also be considered for this position.
- Experience designing and coordinating research projects.
- Peer-reviewed publications in relevant disciplines.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Proficiency in R statistical software or equivalent.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Expertise in reproductive physiology.
- Experience in one or more of the following: assisted reproductive technologies cryobiology, endocrinology, or genetics
- Prior experience in laboratory research.
- Animal handling experience.
- Strong record of student mentorships.

Salary:

\$45,000/year for an 18-month appointment, with eligibility for benefits after 90 days.



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Starting Date:

Negotiable, but latest is March 1, 2020. Closing date for applications is January 15, 2020. Review of applications will begin immediately.

Position Type/Expected Hours of Work:

This is a full-time position that works up to 40 hrs per week and occasionally requires weekend and holiday work. Frequent trips to field sites in Louisiana can be expected.

Supervisory Responsibility: Interns may be the supervisory responsibility of this position and may include supervision in the field.

Reporting Structure: Reports to the Director of Conservation & Research.

Application Requirements:

Application materials should include a cover letter, a statement of research interests, and CV submitted online as a single PDF file. Three letters of reference submitted directly to Steve Reichling, Director of Conservation & Research, sreichling@memphiszoo.org are also required. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Job application link:

<https://www.paycomonline.net/v4/ats/web.php/jobs/ViewJobDetails?job=20379&clientkey=05CE5959ED803A8D72CA12EF87F1125A>