

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Coordinator, Wildlife Phenology Program, The Wildlife Society

Location: Tucson, AZ

About The Wildlife Society:

The Wildlife Society (www.wildlife.org) is an international, membership organization dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Since 1937, TWS has worked to advance the science and practice of wildlife management and conservation, promote continuing education of wildlife professionals, and advocate for science-based wildlife policy. These activities further the Society's mission to represent and serve wildlife professionals – the scientists, technicians, and practitioners actively working to manage, conserve, protect, and study wildlife and their habitats worldwide. The Wildlife Society currently has nearly 8,000 members in the U.S., Canada, and worldwide.

General Qualifications:

The Wildlife Society (TWS) seeks an individual with knowledge and/or training in the wildlife profession and with exceptional communication and interpersonal skills that can serve as an effective planner, facilitator and ambassador for a new Wildlife Phenology Program. This is a temporary two-year position, which has the possibility of transforming into a longer-term position, depending on the program's success.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The WPP Coordinator, under the direct supervision of the TWS Executive Director/CEO, provides leadership and management oversight for a new Wildlife Phenology Program being developed by TWS in partnership with the USA-National Phenology Network (NPN). The USA-NPN (www.usanpn.org) is a relatively new partnership among NGOs, academia, citizen volunteers, federal agencies, and other organizations. The goal and mission of the USA-NPN is to establish a nationwide network of phenological observations of plants and animals to understand better how natural ecological systems respond to changing environments through changes in phenology, and to aid the development and implementation of facilities and tools required for human adaptation to future climate conditions. This effort employs the observational skills of scientists, managers, the public and other stakeholders to document dynamics aspects of plant and animal biology that are affected by seasonal changes, such as foliage emergence, fruit production, migration and reproduction. Such long-term monitoring studies have taken on new importance as our nation and the world begin to track and attempt to adapt to the pervasive impacts of global climate change.

Responsibilities include:

Scope, develop and implement a wildlife phenology program to parallel and interface the plant phenology program of the USA-NPN.

Develop and facilitate workshops and working groups consisting of scientists, stakeholders and resource managers to identify and justify wildlife species (including insect, birds, amphibians, mammals, reptiles, fishes) broadly distributed across the US that may serve as important phenological indicators of environmental change, and that can be monitored within the context of a national phenology network.

Build partnerships and develop public interest in the program.

Identify projects that can be completed readily to demonstrate use of phenology end products and demonstrate early successes.

Assist in the development of a schema for linking plant and animal phenology data.

Develop data management/database requirements for the animal phenology program, and coordinate with the USA-NPN working group for cyber-infrastructure to develop and implement tools to input, download and visualize data.

Identify and develop opportunities for education, outreach and citizen science involvement in the study and understanding of animal phenology.

Seek possible sources of future support for the WPP in collaboration with USA-NPN and TWS.

Qualifications:

Excellent communication skills required, both verbal and written. Ability to communicate effectively with both scientists and non-scientists critical. Broad understanding of effects of environmental variation or climate change on natural ecological systems; solid understanding of processes controlling animal populations and communities; understanding of plant-animal interactions; experience with animal or plant phenology preferred (e.g., empirical or modeling research on contemporary or legacy datasets); experience with meeting facilitation preferred. The emphasis of this program is on terrestrial systems, but some knowledge of aquatic/marine systems would also be helpful.

Education: Master's or doctoral degree in wildlife biology or ecology, or at least 4 years equivalent experience in wildlife management, ecology or related disciplines.

Salary: High 40's-low 50's, depending on educational background and experience.

Benefits: Package includes health insurance, annual and sick leave, and paid holidays.

Application process: Qualified candidates should submit a resume and letter of interest to:

Janine (Yanin) Walker
yanin@wildlife.org (email preferred)
Operations Manager
The Wildlife Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814

Application deadline: 15 July 2008

Anticipated starting date: 1 August 2008