POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT – Postdoctoral Scholar – Human Dimensions of Wildlife

The Human Dimensions Lab at the University of Montana seeks a highly motivated postdoctoral scholar to join our research team’s quantitative investigation of the human dimensions of wolves in Montana. In partnership with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP), our Lab has recently administered a 2023 survey of MT residents and specific groups of interested parties to understand cognitions and behaviors related to wolf populations and wolf management in the state. Similar surveys were conducted in 2012 and 2017 affording an unparalleled opportunity for longitudinal analysis of human dimensions trends over the first 10 years of regulated hunting and trapping of wolves in the contiguous United States. Research for this position focuses on descriptive and comparative analyses among groups of interested parties, a longitudinal analysis of attitudes and beliefs from 2012 to 2017 to 2023, and communication of findings and implications to FWP, wildlife management decision makers, the Montana public, and external academic audiences.

LOCATION: University of Montana, Missoula, MT, USA

APPOINTMENT: preferred start date is Jan. 1, 2024; 1 year appointment; Extension/renewal possible.

QUALIFICATIONS: Required: Must have a PhD by the start of employment; acceptable fields include but are not limited to: human dimensions, sociology, psychology, geography, wildlife biology, applied mathematics, ecology, biology, or natural resource management. Proficiency in R or another statistical analysis language. Demonstrated experience publishing scientific papers with quantitative methods and statistical analysis. Proven track record of scientific communication in written and oral formats.

Highly Desirable: Knowledge of wildlife management governance in the US and MT. Training or expertise in social science theory and its application to the human dimensions of wildlife field. Knowledge of sampling theory. Expertise in survey design and administration, including human subject protections. Experience with code repositories and serverless data storage (e.g., git, google big query).

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The postdoctoral researcher will work under the supervision and mentorship of Dr. Alexander L. Metcalf, in partnership with Dr. Elizabeth C. Metcalf, and in collaboration with agency partners in FWP to analyze current and past survey data in support of scientific communication and agency objectives. Expected products include submission of 2 scientific publications, internal presentation to the MT FWP, presentations to decision making bodies and at public meetings, external presentations at scientific conferences, and annotated analysis code. Additional research, teaching, and training opportunities available.

SALARY AND FRINGE BENEFITS: Annual salary is approximately $60,000 plus benefits per university policy, including health insurance. See University Benefits Website for more information.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Application materials include: 1) Curriculum vitae, 2) cover letter describing relevant background and qualifications specific to the position, and 3) contact information for 3 professional references. Please submit application materials to alex.metcalf@umontana.edu.

DEADLINE: Review will begin Oct. 20, 2023 and continue until filled.