

Wildlife Health Specialist

Duties and Responsibilities:

Plan, direct, coordinate, and implement statewide programs for the detection, control, and management of diseases occurring in wildlife populations.

- Direct the development of strategies for detection, control, and eradication of wildlife diseases.
- Monitor potential wildlife disease patterns and prioritize disease areas requiring epidemiological investigation in order that resources for disease control are utilized for the most severe and/or preventable risk factors.
- Analyze data, using the principles of epidemiology and biostatistics, to assess the effectiveness of wildlife disease surveillance and management measures, and to identify risk factors for disease transmission.
- Recommend Statute and Rule changes as necessary to monitor and manage wildlife diseases.
- Recommend and develop professional working agreements with other agencies to enhance the agencies efforts to address wildlife diseases, and where necessary, to obtain diagnostic and other professional services.
- Represent the agency at both technical and policy levels regarding wildlife disease issues. Design, conduct, and supervise wildlife disease research projects.
- Maintain technical expertise and licensure in wildlife disease management.

Coordinate and develop wildlife population health monitoring programs including but not limited to:

- Routine health monitoring programs to meet wildlife management needs.
- Performing necropsies and standard laboratory examinations as requested by research and management biologists to determine animal condition, age, sex, cause of death, nature of disease or injury and general health status, manage budgets associated with health monitoring.
- Lead epidemiological investigations into disease outbreak and morbidity/mortality events to determine causative agents and provide corrective measures to limit effects on wild populations
- Produce reports and updates to division staff, managers, administrators and the public, as appropriate.

Assist and advise other Wildlife Management personnel in activities including mark/recapture techniques, chemical immobilization, and research study design.

- Must be able to operate firearms and specialized capture equipment; be able to work effectively with large and potentially dangerous wildlife performing daily care, captures, administering treatments, and collecting biological samples.

Minimum Qualifications:

This position requires a Masters degree in Fish and Wildlife Management, or a related field (a degree in Wildlife Biology, Veterinary Science, or Epidemiology, or a combination of these degrees), a degree in Veterinary Medicine or a Doctorate degree is preferred; 1-2 years work related experience. Other combinations of education and experience, which could provide such knowledge, skills and abilities, will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Selection Criteria:

- Knowledge of wildlife disease management principles and methodologies, pathology and diagnostic principles and methodologies, epidemiology principles and methodologies, as well as research methodologies for disease investigations.
- Extent of experience working with free-ranging wildlife populations and issues related to their health.
- Relevance of experience in facilitating collaborations amongst individuals from multiple organizations, government bodies, NGOs, Universities, and national programs related to wildlife disease eradication programs.
- Quality of both oral and written communication skills on technical issues.
- Demonstrated ability to develop/design proposals, manage projects, track budgets, monitor progress, review and approve final reports at the completion of projects.
- Demonstrated ability to be an effective decision maker and negotiator, proficient in conflict resolution.