

M.S. in Environment and Society, Recreation Resource Management, or Geography Utah State University

The Department of Environment and Society at Utah State University is seeking a highly qualified candidate committed to pursuing graduate research investigating the wildlife-related values, beliefs, attitudes, and opinions of both Utah residents and the state's hunters and anglers. The successful applicant's research will be focused on:

- 1) Comparing the values, beliefs, attitudes, and opinions of both the general public and Utah's licensed hunters and anglers;
- 2) Identifying strategies that wildlife management agencies can use employ to communicate the value of wildlife in Utah while building trust in these agencies; and
- 3) Explore how shifts in Utah's population will affect wildlife management in the future.

Depending upon the student's background, interests, and future career goals, he/she will have the opportunity to pursue a MS degree in *Environment and Society, Recreation Resource Management, or Geography*. The successful candidate will work under the co-advisement of Drs. Zach Miller and Jordan W. Smith. The successful candidate should have a strong desire to engage in rigorous social science research using a diverse set of methodologies.

Responsibilities

- Actively engage with an applied research team that includes social scientists and wildlife managers.
- Conduct literature reviews, collect and analyze data, and disseminate results through academic (peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations) and non-academic (websites, workshops, etc.) outlets.
- Maintain good graduate standing and make satisfactory progress toward completion of the MS degree.

Support

The research assistantship is funded for 24-months at 20-hour per week. The position includes a competitive stipend, tuition, health insurance benefits, and funding for conference travel. The research assistantship is funded annually and is renewable each year based on satisfactory progress.

The Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

The successful candidate will work out of the Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. The mission of the Institute is to provide resource management personnel, elected officials, private industry, and the general public with a better understanding of the social and economic trade-offs faced by communities who manage outdoor recreation resources and tourism destinations. Since the Institute was founded in 1998, it has been awarded millions of dollars in externally funded research grants, maintained an active extension program with communities and outdoor recreation managers throughout the Intermountain West, and trained some of the nation's leading outdoor recreation resource managers.

Qualifications

Potential candidates must meet admission standards and be fully accepted into one of the Department of Environment and Society's MS programs. Candidates must have very positive recommendations from previous positions. Prior undergraduate research experience is preferable.

<i>Application Deadline</i>	<i>Start Date</i>
April 1, 2020	Fall 2020

Application Process

Interested students are encouraged to contact Drs. Miller and Smith to learn more about the research. To apply, send a current CV and 1-page letter of interest to:

Dr. Zach Miller
Assistant Professor of Wildlife and Society
Department of Environment and Society
Utah State University
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Dr. Jordan W. Smith
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