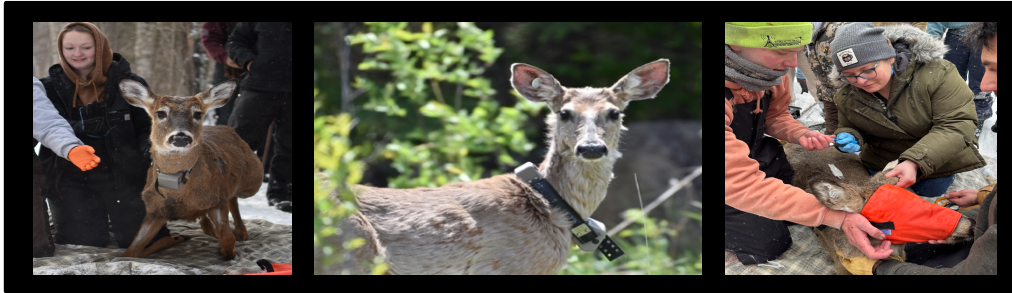


GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP IN CONSERVATION SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Project Description

We seek an outstanding student to pursue a PhD research project to advance the study of white-tailed deer health and disease ecology in partnership with Bemidji State University and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (FDL Band). Waawaashkeshi (white-tailed deer) are a species of social, cultural, and economic importance to the FDL Band as well as to non-tribal members within the region. The Fond du Lac Reservation and surrounding 1854 Ceded Territory are broadly representative of habitats, ecosystems, and deer hunting culture found throughout much of northern Minnesota. It is also an area proposed for the reintroduction of elk. This research is focused on understanding deer population health dynamics and its association with deer management and survival. Health data generated from this research will be used to conduct a disease risk analysis to clearly identify and prioritize disease hazards to mitigate during the potential translocation of elk. The collaborative project will involve a substantial amount of field work (which the student will plan and implement), data collection and management, laboratory activities, and advanced epidemiological and ecological modeling.

Requirements and Qualifications

- BS in wildlife biology, ecology, or related field.
- Strong work ethic; excellent oral and written communication skills, high attention to detail; the ability to work independently and with external partners; and deep respect for indigenous sovereignty and dedication to cultivating respectful partnerships with indigenous communities in research.
- A positive attitude and the personality to work/live amicably with others will also be an advantage.
- Willingness and ability to work long hours in the field in extreme weather conditions.
- Preference will be given to candidates with Native American heritage.

More information?

- Check out the University of Minnesota [Conservation Sciences Program](#).
- To apply, a formal application package must be submitted at [Slate](#) and includes 1) a cover letter that highlights experiences and interest in graduate training, 2) your CV/resume, 3) your unofficial transcripts, and 4) 3 references. Application deadline is **November 30, 2026**. Please contact Dr. Tiffany Wolf at wolfx305@umn.edu for additional questions regarding this opportunity.