

Job Description – Wildlife Participatory Engagement and Collaboration Specialist

This position is a 12-month, 75% engagement, 20% research, 5% teaching appointment offered at the rank of fixed-term, academic specialist - engagement. This position is jointly funded by MSU Extension (MSUE) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division (MDNR-WD) and reports directly to the Chairperson of the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (FW). The successful candidate will work with MDNR-WD, MSUE, and FW to develop an engagement program that provides meaningful engagement opportunities for individuals and organizations on applied wildlife management activities in Michigan. The successful candidate will design and deliver science-based, applied wildlife management information to support successful outcomes of the engagement process. The goal of this position is to build capacity to make informed decisions through resident and stakeholder engagement that is participatory, inclusive, deliberative, and collaborative. The position seeks to improve the quality and outcomes of engagement on sustainability of human environments and wildlife resources in Michigan while increasing the trust and confidence of the MDNR-WD, FW, MSUE, and other organizations responsible for public trust resource management. The successful candidate will interact with university colleagues, private landowners, federal and state agencies as well as the media, private consultants, students, and NGOs. For MDNR-WD projects, the successful candidate will work with the Public Outreach and Engagement (POE) Section supervisor and the Human Dimensions Research Specialist for direction and coordination.

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Identify new audiences to increase the diversity of individuals and perspectives served making conservation more meaningful and effective for Michigan residents.
- Build teams of social scientists and human dimensions researchers to develop strategies that will effectively engage new audiences and broaden public involvement in wildlife conservation.
- Provide consultation and assistance to individuals with conflict at the human-wildlife interface, assist in defining causes of conflict, soliciting information needs, and interpreting research findings.
- Assist in translating complex research findings on wildlife conservation into relevant outreach materials (e.g., workshops, short courses, seminars, outreach publications, videos, social media, and other relevant methods) that further the outcomes of effective engagement processes with particular attention to underserved audiences.
- Work with MDNR-WD's POE section to plan and coordinate outreach events/programs and prepare support materials (e.g., briefing documents, agendas, press releases, speeches) to meet the needs of stakeholder or partner groups.
- Coordinate with stakeholder groups, research faculty, MSU Extension/academic staff to produce and disseminate outreach materials as components of specific engagement processes and outcomes.
- Develop and deliver credit and non-credit courses, seminars, and workshops related to wildlife engagement and science communication to provide a unique learning experience and to advance the knowledge of students and professionals.
- Develop and enhance MDNR-WD's staff skills to create a culture of engagement by working with the Human Dimensions Research Specialist to develop consultation, training, and assistance on implementing engagement tools.

- Use training, one-on-one interviews, and small group meetings and other techniques to facilitate engagement of residents in taking initiative to resolve their community's human-wildlife conflicts.
- Organize and/or attend community-based wildlife initiatives, provide presentations, and outreach to various stakeholder groups to increase awareness among diverse groups about wildlife management goals and outcomes.
- Manage budgets to ensure project deliverables are met on time and within budget.
- Contribute to proposal, referred publications, report writing, and fundraising efforts.
- Engage with MSUE's Natural Resources work team on wildlife conservation issues and programming conducted in communities across the state
- Other engagement/communication duties, projects, activities, and representation as assigned by the Chairperson of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Director of MSUE/Greening Michigan Institute, and the MDNR-WD.

Candidate Qualifications:

- Ability to learn, distill, and effectively communicate substance of scientifically and politically complex issues to stakeholders, the public, and the media.
- Experience mobilizing people toward accomplishing a shared vision and set of goals.
- Thorough knowledge of principles, practices, and techniques related to designing effective engagement and communication strategies, critical thinking, conflict management, systems thinking, and meeting facilitation.
- Ability to manage, plan, resource, implement, and evaluate engagement efforts.
- Strong cross-cultural interpersonal skills and collegiality and the ability to form effective working relationships with diverse constituents.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Strategic thinker who can bring the creativity, energy, discipline, and commitment to the position.
- Highly collaborative with an appreciation of the benefit of a multi-disciplinary team approach.
- Demonstrated evidence of effective communication skills across a diverse array of stakeholders.
- MS or PhD in wildlife or closely related field with two years or more of professional wildlife conservation, science communication, engagement, human dimensions, or another relevant field preferred.
- Applications from individuals with experience in applied human dimensions of wildlife conservation in northern ecosystems that includes developing and implementing engagement processes with scientific communications are encouraged.

Applicants can apply at <http://careers.msu.edu> search for Job #526365 and submit an application that has the following information: Letter of interest that includes a philosophy on outreach and engagement as well as the candidate's vision on how research will be integrated. CV and names and contact information of three references.