Position Title: M.S. assistantships in fisheries conservation (3)

Agency/Location: USGS - Iowa Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (http://www.cfwru.iastate.edu), and Iowa State University, Dept. of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Ames, IA (http://www.nrem.iastate.edu/)

Responsibilities: We are looking for three highly motivated students to join a large collaborative effort evaluating the ability of restored oxbow off-channel habitats to serve as source or sink habitats for endangered Topeka shiners and other species of conservation need. One student will collect and analyze fish, habitat, and genetic data in streams and oxbows in the Rock and North Raccoon watersheds and another student will collect and analyze fish, habitat, and genetic data in the Boone watershed. The third student will conduct GIS analyses to prioritize oxbow restoration locations, conduct species distribution modeling, and assist other students in the field. Students will work closely with state and federal agencies (e.g., Iowa DNR, MN DNR, US FWS) and nonprofit organizations (e.g., Nature Conservancy), supervise field technicians, maintain quality control of data collection, analysis, archiving, writing annual progress reports and other duties as needed. Completion of the research projects will serve as partial fulfillment of the requirements for a M.S. degree from Iowa State University. Other requirements include satisfactory completion of coursework and submission of manuscripts for publication.

Qualifications: B.S. degree in fisheries, conservation biology, ecology, environmental science, natural resources (geography/GIS for the GIS position) or related field. Experience working in streams and identifying stream fishes is beneficial but not required for the positions emphasizing stream fish and habitat. Experience with GIS and landscape ecology is beneficial but not required for the GIS position. Candidates with demonstrated strength in written and oral communication, analytical skills, and academic credentials are preferred. Applicant must be highly motivated, demonstrate a strong work ethic, be physically capable and willing to work long hours in demanding outdoor conditions, and possess a valid driver’s license.

Anticipated start date: January 2016
Salary/Benefits: ~$21,500/year, benefits and partial tuition waiver

Contact: Send application (cover letter, résumé, copies of transcripts and GRE scores, and contact information of 3 references) electronically to Drs. Clay Pierce (epierce@iastate.edu), Kevin Roe (kjroe@iastate.edu), or Michael Weber (mjw@iastate.edu), Dept. of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University.