

M.S. Research Assistantship: Private Lands Wetlands Restoration & Conservation Practices: Understanding Landowner Attitudes and Behaviors

Overview: We are recruiting an M.S. student at Michigan State University Department of Fisheries & Wildlife beginning August 2024. Position to be mentored by Dr. [Emily Pomeranz](#) and will work closely with collaborators at Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and NGO partners as well as other state agencies. The M.S. student will be conducting social science research as part of a pilot project within a new Michigan DNR State Game Area in southeast Michigan focused on wetland restoration to realize water quality benefits. The DNR and partners are interested in expanding the impact of this wetland restoration effort through increasing conservation areas and practices on adjacent public and private lands. Results are intended to be scalable to the Western Lake Erie Basin. This project presents a unique opportunity to understand landowner attitudes and perceptions of wetlands, water quality, and conservation practices, and to understand motivations and barriers to participation in private lands conservation practices and programs, pre- and post-restoration. The restoration pilot is located in a region where landowners have been hesitant to enroll in conservation incentive programs and where there is a history of removing wetlands from the landscape.

Compensation: Position is supported with a research assistant bi-weekly stipend of ~ \$1,189 (approx. \$31K per year, with a 3% annual increase), and includes tuition and health insurance.

Qualifications: Applicants must have a bachelor's degree; an interest in human dimensions of natural resources conservation, with an interest in private lands conservation, wetlands conservation and public engagement preferred; strong interpersonal skills, writing, and communication; and a desire to work with natural resource practitioners and private landowners. This position will require field work to meet with and interview community members in southeastern Michigan, so a valid US license is required. Applicants must also meet the minimum acceptance qualifications of Michigan State University. Preferred applicants will have degrees and experiences in fisheries and wildlife, natural resources, human dimensions/conservation social science, or related fields.

To Apply: Please send undergraduate transcripts (unofficial fine), a resume (include contact information for 3 references), and a writing sample to Dr. Emily Pomeranz (pomeranz@msu.edu). The selected applicant will be invited to apply to Michigan State University's Fisheries & Wildlife graduate program. Graduate degree program requirements include: 1) official Bachelor degree granting transcript; 2) 3 letters of recommendation; 3) academic statement; 4) personal statement. GRE scores are not required. More information here: [Graduate Program - Department of Fisheries and Wildlife \(msu.edu\)](#)

Deadline: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and until the position is filled.