Position Opening:
PREDATOR-PREY PROGRAM RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Agency: Archbold Biological Station  
Location: Venus, Florida  
Salary: $31,000 – 35,000 annually (commensurate with qualifications), plus benefits  
Start Date: immediately, but negotiable  
Last Day to Apply: position open until filled  
Website: www.archbold-station.org

Description: The Predator-Prey program at Archbold Biological Station (ABS) is seeking a talented wildlife biologist to join our team as a full-time Research Assistant. We are seeking a motivated, cross-disciplinary candidate to oversee the launch of a new camera trap-based project called the Corridor Observatory. The Corridor Observatory is designed to capture data and imagery from the working landscape of South Central Florida, a region where multiple critical landscape linkages converge to form ecological connections between South Florida and Central Florida. The Predator-Prey program Research Assistant’s role will be to oversee a network of camera traps, allowing researchers to estimate population densities for wide-ranging species across a complex landscape. This project is designed to support Archbold’s landscape conservation efforts, such as the Florida Wildlife Corridor.
Archbold is devoted to research, conservation, and education and is particularly strong in demography, conservation biology, fire ecology, and behavioral ecology. Archbold's 8000-acre natural area has outstanding examples of Central Florida ecosystems and unique species. We also work within an extensive regional network of managed areas, both publicly and privately-owned.

Archbold’s Predator-Prey program research focuses on using cutting-edge research and technology to detect interactions among wildlife species, effects of certain species on habitat across both working lands and natural lands, and ecological connectivity across modified landscapes. Large carnivores live in Florida and are returning to strongly human-modified ecosystems. The relationships of these large species in anthropogenic landscapes such as South Central Florida is less well understood than such in natural areas.

The Research Assistant will coordinate and conduct field work, which will mainly consist of installing new camera stations, maintaining cameras and field equipment, and carrying out basic habitat surveys at field sites. In the office, the Research Assistant will manage data, perform data analyses, and provide training and assistance for program interns.

Responsibilities: The Research Assistant will work independently and in small teams to develop and advance the science of predator-prey interactions in the working landscape of South Central Florida.
Florida. Self-motivation and orientation towards teamwork are complementary qualities for a successful candidate for this position.

A successful candidate will be able to perform many aspects of project management including: developing and refining field data collection methods, maintaining working field instruments, collecting accurate habitat data in the field, collecting and managing data, and contributing writing for annual grant reporting.

The ability to work well in small teams is important for the predator-prey Research Assistant; this will help ensure the safety of field workers under supervision, and ensure protocols are followed. The Research Assistant may supervise up to 3 seasonal interns. Archbold staff interact often with project collaborators, with other research and natural resource management professionals, landowners, and the public. Candidates must possess the ability to engage and communicate with a diverse range of personalities in the course of their work at Archbold.

Requirements:

- Bachelor’s degree plus two years’ experience, or master’s degree in natural resources, wildlife management, wildlife biology or equivalent
- Dedication, sensitivity, and attention to detail whether working with databases or working in the field
- Demonstrated ability to follow protocols in managing camera traps and camera image data
- Demonstrated ability to write technical reports and maintain large datasets
- Familiar with ArcMap and able to create useful maps for reports and field work planning purposes
- Ability to organize, ie, coordinating schedules and planning field work
- Comfortable working in remote field settings
- Valid U.S. driver’s license with a clean driving record
- Must have authorization to work in the U.S., and be able to pass a background check
- Must be able to tolerate South Florida’s heat, humidity, and abundance of biting insects
- Must be able to hike several miles over un-even terrain while carrying equipment up to 30 lbs.

Desired Skills:

- Experience working with camera image data
Experience conducting habitat assessments
Experience interacting with landowners and the public
Excellent coordination and leadership skills
Proficiency as a writer and communicator

Start Date:
Flexible. On-site work is a requirement. Funding is approved for 2 years. The position may be extended depending on available funding and performance.

Benefits:
Archbold offers a full benefits package including health insurance coverage upon employment and a retirement package following one year of employment.

About our Organization: Archbold Biological Station is a not-for-profit independent research institution dedicated to long-term ecological research. The mission of Archbold is to build and share the scientific knowledge needed to protect the life, lands, and waters of Florida and beyond. The Research Assistant will play a significant role in Archbold’s mission, conducting research and acting on the frontlines to improve conservation outcomes. Archbold is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from individuals belonging to groups traditionally under-represented in the ecological and academic research fields to apply.

Application Instructions: Applicants should send a cover letter addressed to Joseph Guthrie, a resume or CV, and contact information for three references, all combined into a single PDF, titled as follows: YourSurname_Application. Please email your applications to jguthrie@archbold-station.org as soon as possible. Review of applications will begin immediately.