

**Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Health Committee
Regional Fish and Wildlife Health Coordinator
Position Description**

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

- Serve as primary Points of Contact for each of the regional fish and wildlife associations on matters relating to fish and wildlife health issues.
- Support the work of the regional fish and wildlife associations' fish and wildlife health committees, MAFWA CWD working group or work groups through staffing and coordination of meetings, agenda development, collaborative cross-committee issues, and initiatives.
- Work with and serve as primary Points of Contact for AFWA's Fish and Wildlife Health Coordinator to:
 - support AFWA's National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative (NFWHI)
 - help inform critical fish and wildlife health management decisions, policies, and actions
- Improve communications and collaborations among all partners to address emerging fish and wildlife health issues, including chronic wasting disease, more effectively.
- Build effective relationships with state, provincial, federal, regional, tribal, territorial, and university fish and wildlife health programs within the MAFWA region to identify and prioritize short-term and long-term needs and resources related to wildlife disease management, surveillance, education, communication, training, and research.
- Work closely with state fish and wildlife health programs within the MAFWA region to assist with and coordinate the identification, planning, writing, and submission of multi-agency grant applications for fish and wildlife health funding.
- Identify the fish and wildlife health needs of the individual state fish and wildlife agencies within the MAFWA region (e.g., availability of diagnostic laboratory support, skilled personnel and training needs, and outstanding research questions to improve disease management) and develop strategies to meet those needs.
- Work closely with MAFWA's fish and wildlife health and deer committees, CWD working group and CWD research consortium, and to align efforts on landscape-level and interjurisdictional issues within the MAFWA region to improve the consistency of management actions across MAFWA states and to align messaging efforts while improving the efficiency and sustainability of strategies to control the prevalence and spread of this disease

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- This position requires a Master of Science degree in Fish and Wildlife Management, or a related field (e.g., a degree in Wildlife Biology/Ecology, Veterinary Science, or Epidemiology); doctoral or veterinary degrees are encouraged; one or more years of related work experience required. Other combinations of education and experience will be evaluated on an individual basis.

- The applicant should have in-depth experience working with North American wildlife management agencies.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Knowledge of and demonstrated experience in wildlife management and wildlife disease management principles and methodologies, pathology, and diagnostic testing, principles, and research methodologies for disease investigations and population impacts.
- Extent of experience working with free-ranging wildlife populations and issues related to their health.
- Relevance of experience in facilitating collaborations amongst individuals from multiple organizations, government bodies, NGOs, Universities, and national programs related to fish and wildlife disease programs.
- Quality of both oral and written communication skills on technical issues.
- Demonstrated ability to develop/design/administer grant proposals, manage projects, track budgets, monitor progress, review and approve final reports at the completion of projects.
- Demonstrated ability to be an effective decision maker and negotiator, proficient in conflict resolution.

DELIVERABLES

- Provide detailed documentation of the achievements resulting from this funding to the FWS Wildlife Health office in support of garnering future funding
- Support the MAFWA fish and wildlife health committee through assisting the Chair and Vice Chair in committee communications, outreach, agenda development, and meeting minutes.
- Develop and implement communication plans, multi-jurisdictional management plans, and structured information sharing mechanisms.
- Provide shared, multi-agency fish and wildlife health training
- Prepare a gap analysis of state fish and wildlife agencies that will allow these agencies to develop “model” fish and wildlife health programs and make progress toward addressing capacity issues relating to existing fish and wildlife health programs.
- Develop best management practices for addressing wildlife issues across jurisdictions, including the creation of multi-jurisdictional disease surveillance and response plans.
- Prepare and coordinate document development involving comments, responses, resolutions, position statements, etc. related to fish and wildlife health legislative bills or other actions for regional president or Director signature or approval.