Postdoctoral Position in Spatial Population Ecology

We seek a highly motivated postdoctoral scientist to work on a collaborative NSF-funded project to study range expansion in an iconic invasive species. The successful applicant will investigate population dynamics at an invasion front and integrate population dynamical data with gene flow analyses. The goal of the study is to understand the multi-scale patterns and underlying processes of range expansion by the European gypsy moth across the natural and human landscape in the eastern United States.

We are particularly interested in candidates with experience in population modeling and statistical analyses on spatiotemporal scales. Understanding of forest insect ecology, experience with GIS, and/or experience with Bayesian approaches are desirable but not required. Proficiency in the R programming language is required. Applicants must have a PhD in biology, ecology, environmental science, or a related area before the start date. Applicants need to have demonstrated excellent writing skills and have a proven ability to publish research in peer-review journals.

The position will be based in the Department of Biology at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond, VA. The successful applicant will be based in the laboratory of Derek Johnson (www.vcuderekjohnson.com), but will also work with collaborators Rodney Dyer (VCU), Patrick Tobin (University of Washington), and Jeffrey Holland (Purdue University). The appointment is for one year, but may be extended conditional on performance and funding. Preferred start date is in January-April 2018. Later start dates may be considered for the right candidate. Salary and benefits are competitive. To apply or request more information, contact Derek Johnson (dmjohnson@vcu.edu). Applicants are requested to submit the following via email: 1) a cover letter that explains your fit to the position, the particular skills and expertise you will bring to the project, and preferred start dates, 2) a complete CV with publications (including manuscript in submission), grants, and when you completed (or will complete) your PhD, and 3) the names of three references. Applicants may also send reprints or preprints (pdf format) of relevant publications and manuscripts. Review of applications will begin in mid-November, 2017 and continue until the position is filled.