M.S. research assistantship at Iowa State University on muskrat populations in northern wetlands

I am seeking graduate applications at the M.S. level to participate in research on the wetland ecology of the Saskatchewan River Delta in northern Manitoba. The project will be a joint effort with scientists from the Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research of Ducks Unlimited Canada. Researchers will study the effects of altered hydrology and water level management on aquatic vegetation, muskrats, waterbirds, and fish. The Saskatchewan River Delta is the largest inland delta in North America and one of the most productive wetland landscapes on the continent. Yet it has also been substantially altered by irrigation and hydroelectric developments. The student will be expected to develop a project on muskrat/vegetation interactions that fits into the overall design framework. I am a population ecologist, as you'll see from my web page www.eeob.iastate.edu/faculty/ClarkW/homepage.html. We have secured funding from Manitoba Hydro and IWWR.

The most competitive applicant would be interested in wetland ecology, population dynamics and habitat selection. Experience working in remote locations (if you can drive an airboat you’re in!), sampling mammals, and wetland plants is important. Potential applicants are encouraged to send a brief cover letter and CV as a single attachment to the email address below. Admission in either January or August 2010 is possible, although I hope that the person will be available for field work starting May 2010. See the instructions for application on the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology http://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/EEB/ web page. Stipend next year will be about $19,500 per year plus scholarship support for one half of resident tuition. Applicants with GPA well above 3.0 and strong GRE scores may qualify for competitive Graduate Fellowships. Canadian citizens are encouraged to apply.

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