

David L Nieland

Subject: PhD Graduate Assistantship - Mt. Graham red squirrel settlement cues

Ph.D. Graduate Assistantship in Wildlife & Fisheries Conservation at the University of Arizona

Artificial middens as a management tool to enhance settlement and survival of endangered Mt. Graham Red Squirrels

Start date as early as July 2016

Application deadline: 1 Mar 2016

Pending final funding decisions, I anticipate the opportunity for a passionate PhD student interested in the ecology and conservation of endangered species, especially mammals, to join my research group in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation and Management at the University of Arizona. The Mt. Graham Red Squirrel is a federally endangered species that is endemic to a single isolated mountain range in the sky islands of southeastern Arizona. The species builds large piles of conifer cone debris known as middens in which food stores are larderhoarded and remain in use for many generations. These traditional sites appear important to initiate settlement of dispersing animals. The successful graduate student will investigate the importance of middens to settlement through the use of an experimental approach that includes artificial middens created in partnership with agencies and NGOs. Well-developed interpersonal skills, a strong work ethic, and a desire to collaborate with university/agency/NGO scientists and land managers are required for success with this exciting field research.

A Graduate Research Assistantship that provides a monthly salary and tuition remission will be available. More information on benefits for GRAs can be found at: <https://grad.arizona.edu/funding/ga/benefits-appointment>

Highly qualified and interested students should contact Dr. John L. Koprowski (squirrel@ag.arizona.edu) and provide your CV and a 1 page statement of interest that outlines pertinent experience, general qualifications, GPA, and GRE scores. Previous experience with radiotelemetry, forest management and mammalian ecology in the field, appropriate coursework and academic success as indicated by GPA and GRE scores are considerations in the selection process. **After initial review of inquiries, highly qualified students will be encouraged to apply through the formal admission process of the School of Natural Resources & the Environment.** Application materials and general information on SNRE and the University of Arizona are available at <http://www.snre.arizona.edu/>. Learn more about my research group and Mt. Graham Red Squirrels at <http://cals.arizona.edu/research/redsquirrel/>.

Sincerely,

John L. Koprowski, Professor and Associate Director
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