Technician position on Wyoming Range mule deer project

Project description: As part of a larger project exploring factors affecting mule deer in the Wyoming Range, Wyoming, my graduate work seeks to understand 1) whether migration behaviors are transmitted from mother to daughter, and 2) whether there are any implications for occupancy of mule deer populations from that transmission. To address the first component, we will compare movement behaviors between pairs of collared mother-daughter pairs. To address the second component, we will assess occupancy while individuals are on summer range. For more information, visit jakopakresearch.wordpress.com.

Job description: We will collect deer fecal samples, from which we will eventually learn about individual identification and relatedness to nearby deer via microsatellites. The successful applicant will help a graduate student collect fecal samples along transects spread out over family group summer ranges. The successful applicant will also help with vegetation surveys and may be expected to help with some lab processing. Field work will include hiking up to 15 miles/day in rugged country, at times in challenging weather. Free housing will be a combination of car camping, backpacking, and staying in a field station. Compensation will be ~$1200/mo.

Required qualifications:
- Strong desire to hike up to 15 miles/day in rugged country and ability to work long days (up to 12 hrs) and weekends
- Ability to work closely with a small group (team of 2-3 people) in remote field conditions, without reliable access to internet/cell service
- Valid US driving license
- Available for employment from 1 July 2018 - approximately 24 August 2018
- Enthusiasm for learning about wildlife in the Rocky Mountains
- Biology-related (e.g., wildlife, ecology, rangeland) major
- Personal car for days off (you will not be expected to drive your personal car for work-related activities)

Preferred qualifications:
- Experience driving 4WD vehicles and ATVs on unmaintained roads
- Familiarly with plants of the Rocky Mountains

Outcomes for technician:
- Experience collecting non-invasive (fecal) samples and vegetation data
- Potential for experience with telemetry and to assist on mule deer neonate mortality surveys
- Ample hiking in a spectacular place (Wyoming Range)
- Potential for backpacking and horseback riding

To apply: This job would be most appropriate for students beginning wildlife careers. To apply, send 1) cover letter, 2) CV/resume (feel free to include all post-high school, non-wildlife jobs), and 3) email and phone number for 2 professional references in 1 PDF file to Rhiannon Jakopak at njakopak@gmail.com. Please include “summer field work” in the subject line of the email. Please apply by 21 April 2018; applications will be reviewed at that time.