



[Ph.D. Research Assistantship](#)

Analyzing Visitor Experiences across the National Wildlife Refuge System

The [Park Solutions Lab](#) at [Clemson University](#) is seeking a highly motivated Ph.D. student to join a dynamic, collaborative research project with the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (USFWS) – Human Dimensions Branch. This assistantship offers the unique opportunity to contribute to meaningful research aimed at understanding and enhancing visitor experiences across the National Wildlife Refuge System. Working alongside experts in applied research and public land management, the successful candidate will play an essential role in surveying, analyzing, and interpreting visitor data to aid in the stewardship of these vital public lands.

The successful candidate will engage in comprehensive research activities, including research design and data collection, and advanced data analysis to uncover trends and insights. This role involves characterizing visitor behaviors, assessing satisfaction with current services and facilities, and identifying desires for future improvements. This assistantship offers a unique opportunity to work at the intersection of science and environmental management, contributing to meaningful conservation efforts that impact local communities and important resources. The ideal candidate will possess growing research skills, a passion for conservation, and the ability to thrive in an interdisciplinary team. Collaborative mentorship from leading experts at Clemson University and USFWS will support the candidate's academic and professional growth. Join us in this exciting endeavor to become a key player in shaping sustainable and rewarding visitor experiences across the National Wildlife Refuge System!

Support: A competitive 9-month stipend, summer wages, full tuition, and travel support.

Location and mentorship: The position is located at Clemson University in [Clemson, South Carolina](#) and will work with [Dr. Matt Brownlee](#) in the [Parks, Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation](#) emphasis area within the [Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism Management](#).

Qualifications: Excellent writing and analytical skills, flexibility, ability to work collaboratively on a team, and a strong desire to learn and grow.

Dates: Letters of interest due before January 5, 2025. Early submission of materials is encouraged. The assistantship period is May 2025 (preferred) or August 2025 through May 2029.

To begin the process: Send a cover letter expressing your interest, a resume/CV, a writing sample, and a list of three professional references to Dr. Brownlee (mbrownl@clemson.edu). [Additional information here](#).

[Matthew T.J. Brownlee, Ph.D.](#) | CLEMSON UNIVERSITY |
Associate Professor of Parks, Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation
[Park Solutions Lab](#) | [Clemson University Institute for Parks](#)
Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management
Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation
Sirrine Hall | Clemson, SC 29634 | mbrownl@clemson.edu