Ph.D. position available, response of ungulates to nutrition and predation risk in a changing landscape

Project Description: The PhD student will work on a fully-funded project supervised by Dr. Sophie Gilbert at the University of Idaho (www.gilbertresearch.org), in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences (https://www.uidaho.edu/cnr/departments/fish-and-wildlife-sciences/). The PhD project will focus on 1) how deer, elk, and moose populations in Northern Idaho are affected by nutritional quality and predation, and 2) how deer (white-tailed and mule deer) respond spatially and demographically (via movement, habitat selection, survival, and reproduction) to these same landscape factors. The student will work extensively with data from remote camera traps and GPS-collared individuals, combined with existing detailed models of vegetation quality.

In addition, the student will work as part of a broader collaborative team, consisting of multiple graduate students and PIs at the University of Idaho, University of Montana, and other universities in the region as well as partners including state and provincial wildlife management agencies, the Okanagan Nations Alliance, and the BC Wildlife Federation. This team is working together to understanding how carnivore and ungulate populations are responding to landscape change in the forested landscapes of the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountains, with the goal of informing management strategies that are robust to environmental change.

Qualifications: Applicants should have a B.S. and M.S. in wildlife sciences, biology/ecology, or a closely-related field, as well as field research experience, ideally but not necessarily with large mammals. Applicants must be great team players, be self-motivated and creative, and also have strong quantitative and writing abilities, including competence in Program R and spatial analysis. Evidence of successful peer-reviewed publication is highly desired but not required. This position will require extensive fieldwork (summer-long, plus winter captures), supervision of technicians, working closely with agency personnel and the broader academic team, and developing complex quantitative models. Please refer to https://www.uidaho.edu/admissions/graduate/graduate-programs/natural-resources for admission requirements to the degree program,

Compensation and Timeline: The PhD student will receive annual stipend of ~$26,000/year for up to 5 years (2019-2024), including all university tuition, healthcare, and fees (pending final award of funding). The PhD student will be expected to conduct an initial pilot field season during May-August 2019, before beginning graduate school in August of 2019.

To apply: Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, scientific writing sample, unofficial transcripts, GRE scores, and the names and contact information (phone and e-mail address) of 3 references to Sophie Gilbert (sophiegilbert@uidaho.edu). Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Please also contact Dr. Gilbert with any questions regarding the project.

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