

Spatial and Population Ecology of the Fortymile caribou herd



PhD Assistantship in Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana

I have an opening for Fall 2017 for 1 graduate student project (PhD, but may consider MS) focused on understanding the spatial and population ecology of the Fortymile caribou herd, one of Alaska's most important caribou herds. The successful PhD student will work with an interagency group including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), the National Park Service (NPS) and the Yukon Territorial Government to develop their research and field activities, and deliver applied ecological science to improve cooperative management of this herd. The Fortymile caribou herd is one of the most intensively studied populations in Alaska, and also experiences intensive habitat and predator management. The focus of the project is to understand the fundamental roles of top-down and bottom-up factors in driving spatial and population ecology. Opportunities for fieldwork to support the research could be developed by the PhD student and collaborating agencies and include developing nutritional forage models and assisting collaborating agencies with population-level fieldwork. For more information about the Fortymile herd see [here](#).

Funding is provided by the Alaska BLM office and collaborating agencies. This project will also collaborate and work synergistically with a broader, [Arctic-Boreal Vulnerability Experiment \(ABOVE\)](#) project in which Hebblewhite is a co-PI. For more information about the NASA project see the [project description](#). See [here](#) for more information about ongoing projects in my lab.

Qualifications: M.Sc./M.A. in wildlife biology, ecology, conservation biology, or related field; outstanding work ethic; exceptional quantitative skills and motivation; field experience in ungulate or predator ecology preferred; field experience in remote wilderness settings in the subarctic or arctic preferred; experience with analyses of GPS movement data from animals; demonstrated excellence in oral and written communication and interpersonal skills; demonstrated experience working with wildlife management agencies. Experience with statistical modeling, programming, R, GIS analyses, remote sensing, scientific writing, and spatial modeling an asset.

How to apply: Send cover letter summarizing interest and relevant experience, resume/CV, unofficial transcripts, GRE scores, and contact information (including phone and email - letters not required at initial screening stage) for 3 references to Dr. Mark Hebblewhite (mark.hebblewhite@umontana.edu), Wildlife Biology Program, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana, Missoula, MT, USA, 59812. Position will start in the field in May 2017. University of Montana Wildlife Biology Program application deadline is Jan 15, 2017. Top candidates will be contacted no later than Dec 31st, 2015, and directed to apply for admission to the UM graduate school.