



## **Evaluating bottom-up and top-down effects on elk survival and recruitment: a case study in the Bitterroot Valley**

### **PhD Assistantship in Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana**

Together with Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, we will be recruiting a PhD student for a project focused on evaluating bottom-up and top-down effects on adult elk survival and recruitment in western Montana. This project will seek to collect field data on adult female survival, body condition, and exposure to predation risk and forage quality combined with survival of elk calves for their first year of life to understand the interactive effects of predation and forage in determining elk population responses to recolonizing predators. The successful PhD candidate should be skilled in field collection of telemetry data on large mammals in remote and rugged mountainous terrain, and will be responsible for designing and conducting fieldwork evaluating elk calf survival. A keen desire to advance their quantitative training at the PhD level is required. In addition, the successful candidate must have exceptional interpersonal and collaborative teamwork experience, and a demonstrated ability to work effectively in conservation across a broad range of stakeholder and public attitudes about predators and ungulate interactions. Also, the successful candidate must understand the role Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks plays in ungulate and large carnivore management from a local (Bitterroot Valley) and statewide perspective and be willing to work with state research and management biologists.

PhD Assistantship and project funding will be provided by the University of Montana and research project partners including Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. PhD stipend + benefits + tuition waiver. The PhD position will start school August 2011 with the potential for field work beginning spring 2011. The PhD student will be required to participate in grant writing and seek additional external funding.

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 ideal; and demonstrated excellence in oral and written communication and interpersonal skills across a spectrum of values towards wildlife. Experience with statistical modeling, programming, R, GIS analyses, remote sensing, scientific writing, and spatial modeling an asset. 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@cfc.umt.edu](mailto:mark.hebblewhite@cfc.umt.edu)), Wildlife Biology Program, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana, Missoula, MT, USA, 59812. Email is the preferred means of applying. University of Montana Wildlife Biology Program application deadline is Jan 15, 2008. Top candidates will be contacted by Dec 31st, 2010, and directed to apply for admission to the UM graduate school.