



PhD opportunity: Avian and mammalian research in sagebrush ecosystems

The Fedy Lab of Wildlife and Molecular Ecology is recruiting 2 PhD students for research on connectivity and predation in sagebrush ecosystems.

We are seeking excellent students for PhD projects addressing important wildlife conservation issues for greater sage-grouse. The research will expand our on-going wildlife projects on sagebrush ecosystems in northeastern Wyoming. Spring and summer field work will be based out of Buffalo, Wyoming - at the foot of the Bighorn Mountains.

The successful applicant will have a strong background in ecology and field-based research, excellent grades, and a passion for wildlife ecology and conservation. Students should have a strong background in statistics or a keen interest and willingness to learn sophisticated quantitative approaches to data analysis. Previous experience with statistical software such as R is preferred. Students must have a strong work ethic, be able to thrive under physically challenging field situations, and must be comfortable supervising field crews in remote locations. The research will occur on public and private lands, experience interacting and working with landowners and producers is a plus. Funding for PhD students is available for up to four years and students who have already completed a Master's degree will be given preference. The applicant should be competitive for scholarships such as NSERC, and will be expected to apply for such opportunities. We, of course, welcome students who have secured external funding. Guaranteed funding is only available for domestic students, at this time. Field work will involve the capture and handling of greater sage-grouse, the use of drones for wildlife monitoring, avian surveys, and radio-telemetry.

The students will be members of the Fedy Lab of Wildlife and Molecular Ecology at the University of Waterloo, Ontario. Research in the lab crosses scales, from genes to landscapes, and involves both intensive field work and statistical analysis. More information on on-going projects can be found on our website fedylab.uwaterloo.ca. Students will be supervised by Dr. Brad Fedy (fedylab.uwaterloo.ca) and will be integrated into our active and engaging research environment. The academic start date can be flexible, but students must be available to begin field work in May 2021.

If interested, please email bfedy@uwaterloo.ca with subject line “Sagebrush PhD”. We will begin reviewing applications July 15, 2020 and will continue until the positions are filled. Please provide: (1) a cover letter detailing background and research interests; (2) CV including the names of 3 referees; (3) unofficial transcripts from your previous degrees.