

Ph.D. Assistantship at University of Wyoming studying ungulate migration in Yellowstone



The [Merkle Research Group](#) in collaboration with [Yellowstone National Park](#) is looking for a highly motivated, creative, and quantitative Ph.D. student to lead a project studying the movements and space use of ungulates in Yellowstone National Park. The successful applicant will be admitted through [the Program in Ecology](#) at the University of Wyoming and will be based in Laramie, Wyoming (USA). Field work will occur in and around Yellowstone.

The goals of the research project will be to make fundamental contributions to the field of movement ecology while also providing reliable knowledge to manage and conserve ungulate migration. The successful applicant will have the opportunity to shape the specific research questions within the following topics: 1) the ecology and evolution of movement, migration, and habitat selection strategies in bison, elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep; and 2) how bison grazing affects the movements of other, sympatric ungulates.

Candidates must have a B.S. and preferably a M.S. degree in Ecology, Biology, Wildlife, or related field. Applicants should have experience working independently and with a team in the lab and field. Applicants with experience managing and analyzing large datasets (including remote sensing and animal movement data) in program R, working with multiple statistical frameworks, and publishing peer-reviewed research will be favored. Successful applicants will be expected to participate in a collaborative team environment, conduct field work, present at professional conferences, and publish results in a timely manner in peer-reviewed scientific outlets.

A competitive graduate assistantship will be provided, which includes annual stipend, tuition, and benefits. To apply, please email a SINGLE PDF file that includes 1) a detailed cover letter outlining quantitative experience and interest in studying animal movement, 2) a CV, 3) contact information for three references, and 4) transcripts to Jerod Merkle (jmerkle@uwyo.edu). Review of applicants will begin 15 July 2020. Start date is negotiable but January 2021 is preferred.