Yellowstone to Yukon
Conservation Initiative

Position title: Conservation Science Intern
Start/end dates: 15 January 2021-16 July 2021 (6 months)
Remuneration: $22 CAD/hour + benefits, 37.5-hour week

THE ORGANIZATION

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) is a joint Canada-U.S. not-for-profit organization with a mission to connect and protect wildlife habitat from Yellowstone to Yukon so people and nature can thrive. We take a scientific and collaborative approach to conservation, and highlight and focus on local issues that affect the region. Since 1993, Y2Y has worked with >450 partners, including scientists, conservation groups, landowners, businesses, government agencies, and First Nations and Native American communities to stitch together this landscape. More information: www.y2y.net.

THE POSITION

Y2Y seeks a *Conservation Science Intern* to support research on recreation ecology in the Yellowstone-to-Yukon region. The context for this work is to learn about where and how outdoor recreation affects wildlife species and ecosystem components, with specific case studies in western Alberta and eastern British Columbia. The team works closely with government, conservation, and recreation partners to inform management and planning, supporting actions that protect and conserve the environment while ensuring high-quality outdoor recreation experiences.

We seek someone with skills and passion for spatial and quantitative data, wildlife ecology, and conservation science. The Conservation Science Intern will be co-supervised by Dr. Karine Pigeon (UNBC-Y2Y postdoctoral fellow) and Dr. Aerin Jacob (Y2Y conservation scientist). The position is suited to someone with experience in geospatial analyses (GIS, data processing and management, and mapping), literature review, science outreach, and a background related to natural resource management, conservation science, or geospatial studies that inform wildlife and land-use management. The intern will be encouraged to work on geospatial and literature reference management databases, liaise with other staff members and partners. More broadly, the intern will join Y2Y staff meetings to learn about the practices and processes of working in an international not-for-profit organization, and have professional development as opportunities arise.

PRIMARY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Working within Y2Y's Integrating Science & Conservation program, the intern will:

- Conduct systematic reviews of published literature on key fish and wildlife habitat use and demographics
- Organize and manage bibliographic information relevant to recreation and wildlife ecology and conservation aspects in the Yellowstone-to-Yukon region using reference management software
- Review primary and grey literature about the impacts of recreation on fish and wildlife
- Search Open Data Sources (e.g. BC Open Data Catalogue) for available wildlife data, GIS spatial features, and associated metadata
- Assist with digitizing spatial data and generating related GIS digital data as necessary
- Assist with geospatial and statistical analyses supporting evaluation of recreation activities
- Assist in managing geodatabases; generate, collate, organize, maintain and archive GIS data

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- Explore potential approaches to fill gaps in existing wildlife data and associated habitat data
- Assist with other related tasks as needed

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience conducting systematic literature reviews
- Experience collecting and compiling data and key information from peer-reviewed literature (e.g., lists of statistical models, influential variables, associated coefficients and standard errors)
- Strong organizational skills and excellent attention to detail
- Demonstrated written and communication skills, particularly to synthesize complex information
- Experience communicating with non-specialist audiences through a variety of means (e.g., email, reports, in-person, telephone, webinars)
- Experience managing and citing bibliographic references (e.g., reports, books, journal articles)
- Experience with ArcGIS software, GIS, and mapping – ideally with geodatabases and spatial analyses
- Ability to work independently and as part of a remote-based team, creative problem-solver

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience with statistical analyses using R
- Experience building Resource Selection Functions (RSFs)

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

This position is full-time and can be conducted from anywhere in Canada. Y2Y is an equal opportunity employer and committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our workplace as well as more broadly in science, conservation, and society. We strongly encourage applications from members of equity-seeking and under-represented groups.

LOCATION, HOURS OF WORK, AND SALARY

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the position will be based remotely (in Canada). The applicant will require a working computer with the ability to run ArcGIS; Y2Y will provide software licenses. Not having access to a computer should not stop you from applying but please indicate it in your application – we will do our best to accommodate a successful applicant. This is a full-time position (i.e., 37.5 hours per week) for six months from 15 January to 15 July 2021. The salary is $22 CAD/hour + benefits.

TO APPLY

Please submit a cover letter, CV/resume, and contact information for two professional and/or academic references to ellen@y2y.net by 30 November 2020. In your application, please outline your relevant experience and background and clearly explain how you meet the essential and additional qualifications. Questions about the position can be directed to Dr. Karine Pigeon, karine@y2y.net.