

PhD research assistantship – Spatial Ecology and Population Dynamics of Elk in Nebraska
Benson Lab of Predator – Prey Ecology at the University of Nebraska

Salary: \$26,000 – 27,000 per year, tuition waiver, health insurance

Start date: January 2022 (may be some flexibility for outstanding candidates)

Applications reviewed as they arrive until an excellent candidate is identified

<https://bensonlab.org/>

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=lq4fh3UAAAAJ&hl=en>

I am seeking a highly motivated ecologist interested in pursuing a PhD in Applied Ecology in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) as a graduate research assistant. The student will play a central role in developing and conducting comprehensive research on elk spatial ecology and population dynamics across their occupied range in western Nebraska. The research will involve deploying a large number of GPS collars on cow and bull elk, estimating survival, quantifying resource selection and movement decisions, and estimating abundance of elk across the state. In addition to meeting existing project objectives, there is considerable intellectual freedom to develop basic and applied questions of interest to the student. The student will work closely with the PI and Agency partners to develop a camera trap monitoring protocol to estimate abundance of multiple ungulate and carnivore species across the state. The student will also help to develop a statewide integrated population model for elk drawing on abundance estimates, survival rates, and harvest data. The successful applicant will join a dynamic and growing research lab. As such, the student will also have opportunities to contribute to additional, exciting research being conducted by the lab across Nebraska, North America, and beyond with large herbivores and top predators. This position will provide great opportunities for exciting fieldwork, authoring high-impact publications, and professional development.

Qualifications: M.S. degree in Wildlife, Ecology, or related field. A track record of academic excellence, publishing research findings in peer-reviewed journals, and strong quantitative, coding (R, Bayesian platforms, etc.), and writing skills are expected. A passion for basic and applied wildlife ecology are required. Ability to conduct field work, lead field crews, work effectively and professionally with agency and academic collaborators, and interact positively with private landowners are essential.

Above all we seek an ecologist that will be a good fit for our lab group who is intrinsically motivated to do excellent science

Please email the following as a single PDF attachment to John Benson at jbenson22@unl.edu: 1) cover letter, 2) current CV, 3) unofficial transcripts, 4) copy of GRE scores (with percentiles for all 3 sections, if available), and 5) contact info for 3-5 references. References should have direct knowledge of field, quantitative/coding, and writing abilities.

Please also include any PDFs of peer-reviewed articles published as first author.