



Research Associate – Landscape and Conservation Ecologist

Job type: Full-time position with no term limits.

Location: Yukon and Northern British Columbia, based in Whitehorse, YT

Closing date: 5 December 2009

Anticipated start date: 1 March 2010 (negotiable)

Salary: Commensurate with experience. Health and retirement benefits.

Job Description:

Wildlife Conservation Society Canada seeks a dynamic individual to help implement the objectives of a long-term site-based conservation program in southern Yukon and northern British Columbia. The objectives of the project for which WCS Canada is seeking field-based leadership are to:

- Enhance knowledge of the abundance, distribution, and habitat relationships of wildlife and fish species vulnerable to human activities and climate change, and make this knowledge available for land use and management planning decisions and for monitoring;
- Undertake scientific assessments of wildlife and ecological processes and values across broad landscapes in the Boreal Cordillera ecozone, identifying and evaluating priority areas for protection of biodiversity and fully functioning ecosystems; and
- Share wildlife-related biological expertise and technical information with a variety of conservation partners, including First Nations governments, local communities, territorial and provincial governments, industry, and other non-governmental organizations.

The Landscape and Conservation Ecologist will help implement this project, with the following specific duties and responsibilities:

- Apply diversified knowledge of scientific principles and practices in a coordinated program of conservation and research activities within WCS

- Canada's long-term site,- the Boreal Cordillera ecozone (Northern Boreal Mountains) of southern Yukon and northern British Columbia;
- Develop a strategic plan that addresses current threats to the Northern Boreal Mountains and supports a comprehensive program of conservation planning in a relatively intact ecosystem, addressing: multiple spatial and temporal scales; potential threshold responses of species and ecosystems to natural resource development and associated human activities; temporal and spatial variability of landscape composition associated with natural disturbance regimes; cumulative effects in resource management; and future uncertainties of a changing climate.
 - Develop and maintain strong and effective working relationships with other knowledgeable parties, such as First Nations governments, community Renewable Resource Councils, territorial and provincial government agencies, tourism outfitters, and non-governmental organizations to advance the scientific work needed to implement conservation in the Northern Boreal Mountains;
 - Identify critical information gaps/needs in this process, and design research to fill such gaps;
 - Maximize the distribution and communication of field and laboratory results and analyses to partners so that information from WCS Canada's research and expertise on boreal forest ecology immediately informs land use planning decisions and relevant policy at provincial and community levels.
 - Participate where appropriate in decision-making or policy initiatives regarding wildlife conservation and management issues relevant to WCS Canada's long-term goals for the region.
 - Promote the conservation of wildlife and wild lands in the Northern Boreal Mountains within the conservation community, donors, agencies and other non-governmental organizations through meetings, speaking engagements, media interviews, writing, and general communications.
 - Represent WCS Canada as a leader in the scientific and conservation community.

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. with a strong background in landscape ecology, conservation planning, conservation biology, wildlife/fisheries ecology;
- Wildlife/fisheries ecology and conservation expertise;
- Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work effectively in a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary work environment;
- Strong GIS, quantitative and modeling skills and knowledge of advanced techniques in conservation planning;
- Sufficient knowledge and work experience in effective collaboration with other scientists and conservation practitioners;
- Demonstrated strong working knowledge of, and experience with, conservation issues in Canada, especially in boreal regions;
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write, articulate, and synthesize information for diverse audiences;
- Record of peer-reviewed publications relating to species, natural communities, ecosystems, or ecosystem processes or related topics.

- Self-motivated, and comfortable with and capable of working with dispersed staff.

About WCS Canada

WCS Canada was established as a Canadian conservation organization in July 2004. Our mission is to conserve wildlife and wildlands by improving our understanding of and seeking solutions to critical problems that threaten key species and large wild ecosystems throughout Canada. We implement and support comprehensive field studies that gather information on wildlife needs and then seek to resolve key conservation problems by working with a broad array of stakeholders. We also provide technical assistance and biological expertise to local groups and agencies that lack the resources to tackle conservation concerns. WCS Canada is independently registered and managed, while retaining a strong collaborative working relationship with sister WCS programs in more than 55 nations, including an integrated North America Program. The Wildlife Conservation Society (www.wcs.org) is a recognized global leader in conservation and for more than a century has worked in North America promoting actions such as bison reintroduction, pioneering field studies, parks creation, and legislation to protect endangered wildlife.

To apply:

Please send (by email, fax or mail) a cover letter detailing research and conservation interests and experience, the names of three references, and Curriculum Vitae to:

Human Resources
Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
720 Spadina Avenue, #600
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 3B3
www.wcscanada.org

Fax: 416-850-9040
Email: wcscanada@wcs.org

For more information, contact Donald Reid: dreid@wcs.org