



ANNOUNCEMENT: W. GARFIELD WESTON FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP FOR NORTHERN CONSERVATION

PURPOSE

To advance Wildlife Conservation Society Canada's conservation goals at two long-term sites: Northern Boreal Mountains, Yukon/BC; and the Northern Ontario Boreal

With generous support from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (WCS Canada) is pleased to offer two research fellowships in the field of applied conservation science to established or new graduate-level students at Canadian universities. These fellowships are intended to provide all or partial funding of graduate level field research activities for students to undertake their thesis-related field work and are not intended for salaries. The research undertaken by these students will be relevant to WCS Canada's conservation objectives at our two long-term sites: the boreal region of northern Ontario and the northern boreal mountains of Yukon and British Columbia (see map below).

FELLOWSHIPS

WCS Canada is pursuing various science-based conservation efforts in the boreal regions of the southern Yukon and northern British Columbia and in northern Ontario. These fellowships are available beginning November 1, 2009 and last for one year.

The candidates must be pursuing a graduate degree in conservation science, or in a related field such as landscape ecology, conservation planning, conservation biology, wildlife/fisheries ecology, or socio-ecological research. The research project must help advance WCS Canada's long-term conservation objectives for each region including, but not limited to: aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, wetland and riparian ecosystems; large ungulates and carnivores, ecosystem connectivity; ecological changes resulting from climate change; sustainable harvesting of wildlife; effects of natural resource developments.

APPLICATION

Application deadline: September 30, 2009

Applicants should send a cover letter clearly outlining how the proposed research addresses WCS conservation objectives, a CV, a 3-5 page description of research interest (goals/objectives, methods, conservation relevance), a complete project budget (including committed or pending support from other sources), a letter of support from their academic supervisor and names and contact

information for two other references. Applicants are strongly advised to ensure that their proposed research follows accepted ethical guidelines for research in the North. Examples include the ACUNS Principles for Conduct of Research in the North (<http://www.acuns.ca/ethical.html>), the Guidebook on Scientific Research in the Yukon (http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/pdf/science_research_guidelines.pdf), and the Inuit Tapiirit Kanatimi Guide for Researchers (<http://www.itk.ca/publications/env-negotiating-research-relationships.pdf>) before submitting proposals. Fellowship awards will be conditional on applicants providing copies of approved permits for research and evidence of compliance with necessary animal and/or human ethics and welfare protocols.

Send all application materials to: Office Manager at mkatsabas@wcs.org or Office Manager, 720 Spadina Avenue, #600, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2T9. Electronic submissions are preferred. Electronic submissions greatly facilitate peer review and management of your proposal. Acceptable format is a WORD document file. Questions about specific landscape sites can be directed toward Dr. Cheryl Chetkiewicz (Northern Ontario Boreal) at: cchetkiewicz@wcs.org and Dr. Don Reid (Northern Boreal Mountains) at dreid@wcs.org

LONG-TERM SITE DESCRIPTIONS AND WCS' ASSOCIATED CONSERVATION GOALS



1. Ontario Northern Boreal (ONB) Long-term Site

In northern Ontario, WCS Canada is focussing on the largest intact, unroaded portion of boreal forest in North America. This 500,000 km² area is composed of lowland boreal forest habitats, with the eastern half of the region lying in the Hudson Bay lowlands -- one of the largest wetland complexes in the world. While human impacts over the broad scale have been negligible over the past 150 years, continued ecological integrity is now threatened by the movement northward of large-scale industrial development -- notably mining, the development of all-weather road networks.

The area has a long history of human occupancy and is home today to a population of about 10,000 spread over 30 Cree and Ojibwa communities and is the focus of a recent provincial commitment to protect at least half of this landscape within the framework of a formal land use planning process.

Goal: Conserve the full suite of wildlife species and integrity of the wild ecosystems supporting wildlife throughout the northern boreal region of Ontario.

Objectives

- Enhance knowledge of the status, distribution, and ecology of wildlife vulnerable to land use change in Ontario for application towards monitoring and land use planning decisions north of the current managed forest boundary;
- Share wildlife-related biological expertise and technical information with a variety of interest groups, including First Nations, local communities, government, and other non-governmental organizations;
- Undertake a scientific assessment of ecological values, identifying priority areas for protection of biodiversity at various scales.

2. Northern Boreal Mountains (NBM)

This region encompasses approximately 855,000 km² in north-western Canada, incorporating diverse boreal, taiga and tundra ecosystems. Resident aboriginal peoples rely on their harvests of wildlife and fish, including the longest distance migration of salmon in the world. Much of the drainage basin is still wilderness supporting very impressive populations of barren-ground and mountain caribou, grizzly bears, wolverine, and lynx. Much of the region was part of the Beringian refugium during the Wisconsin glaciation, and that geographic isolation led to significant speciation and endemic wildlife. Lowland and riparian habitats support the majority of the region's biodiversity but these habitats are poorly covered by existing conservation lands. WCS Canada is focusing on the NBM because of the mix of conservation opportunity and threat the region currently faces.

Goal: Conserve the full suite of wildlife species and integrity of the wild ecosystems supporting wildlife throughout the boreal mountains of northwest Canada.

Objectives:

- Assist in the identification and development of new and improved protected areas or ecological benchmarks in the Northern Boreal Mountains.
- Achieve an improved understanding and regulatory accommodation of wildlife habitat requirements in tactical and operational-scale land allocation and management decisions.
- Enhance knowledge of the factors limiting distribution and abundance of ecologically and socially influential species.

ABOUT WCS CANADA

WCS Canada was established as a Canadian conservation organization in July 2004. Our mission is to conserve wildlife and wild lands 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.