



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Faculty of Forestry



PhD Position in UBC's Wildlife Coexistence Lab:

### ***Modelling mammal distributions and habitat in British Columbia***

The [Wildlife Coexistence Lab](#) (WildCo) at the [University of British Columbia](#) is seeking a graduate student to begin a **four-year PhD position in May 2025**. The research will be pursued under the supervision of Associate Professor Cole Burton as part of a collaborative research program with scientists and practitioners in government and other organizations working to improve wildlife stewardship in British Columbia and beyond.

The successful candidate will develop a PhD project with Dr. Burton and collaborators having a primary focus on developing, testing, and applying models of distribution and habitat suitability for medium- and large-bodied mammals in BC. Specific research activities may include: synthesizing and integrating camera trap data and other sources of information to build and test habitat models at different scales; initiating new camera trap surveys to improve understanding of species-environment relationships; assessing effectiveness and identifying gaps in existing habitat protections (e.g. parks and other wildlife habitat designations); evaluating areas important for maintaining or restoring connectivity. The student will play a role in [WildCAM](#) (a network of camera trap practitioners in western Canada) and will be encouraged to work with partners in Indigenous communities/organizations.

***Desired qualifications:*** Applicants should hold an MSc in ecology (or related field) with experience and interest in animal biology, conservation science, and wildlife management. Specific experience and skills relevant to this position include: advanced statistical modelling (e.g. mixed models, Bayesian methods), spatial analysis in R or GIS software, wildlife surveys using camera traps, remote fieldwork, data management and open science, writing and publishing for technical and non-technical audiences, communicating and collaborating with a diverse team. The position will be based in the Faculty of Forestry at the UBC campus in Vancouver, Canada.

***Funding:*** The position will be funded at a *minimum* stipend level of CAD \$28,000/year for 4 years. The successful applicant will also be supported in applying for an NSERC doctoral scholarship and/or other sources of funding to supplement/extend stipend, including opportunities for UBC Awards and Graduate Teaching Assistantships (see [UBC Forestry](#)). Funding is available to support the costs of research and related activities (e.g. computing, conference travel).

***Application:*** Interested applicants should send an email to [wildlife.ubc@gmail.com](mailto:wildlife.ubc@gmail.com) by 15 September 2024 with the *Subject: "PhD in BC Mammal Modelling"* and include a single pdf with: a) brief statement of interest, b) Curriculum Vitae, and c) academic transcripts (unofficial copies ok). **Full applications to the UBC graduate program will be due by 1 October 2024 for May 2025 start** (further details at [UBC Forestry](#) webpage; later start negotiable).

The [WildCo](#) lab is a supportive group of individuals that are passionate about making a positive impact on human-wildlife coexistence. Applications are encouraged from members of groups that have been historically underrepresented or marginalized in science and academia.