

## Spatial Ecologist – Carnivore Distribution Modeling for Conservation

### Position Summary

The Jones Lab at the Rocky Mountain Research Station and the University of New Mexico (<https://gavinmjones.com/>) is seeking an MSc or PhD-level spatial ecologist to work on mapping the dynamic distributions of a suite of carnivore species in forest landscapes of the American West.

The position will be focused on integrating survey, demography, movement, and other auxiliary datasets of Canada lynx, fisher, and marten to map historical and current species distributions in the northern Rockies and fisher in the southern Sierra Nevada. Resulting research will directly inform forest management and climate resilience of a large bioregion. The scope of the position provides strong opportunities for applicants to make rapid career progress on a high-impact problem of fundamental and applied relevance. The individual will have opportunities to work on other projects in the lab and spend time on new research, collaborations, and general career/skill development.



Minimum qualifications are an MSc or PhD in ecology, statistics, computer science, or a related discipline. A successful candidate at the MSc level will be hired as a ‘research associate’, and a successful candidate at the PhD level will be hired as a ‘postdoctoral research associate’. The ideal candidate will have a background applying analytical methods associated with species distribution modeling, working with large spatial datasets, data integration approaches, and experience working on the Google Earth Engine platform. We encourage you to apply even if your experience is not a 100% match with the position. We are looking for someone with relevant skills and experience, not a checklist that exactly matches the job description. We want to help you grow and in return, you help us grow into a stronger, more inclusive research group. Strong programming experience is essential; candidates should be proficient using program R, Python, and/or JavaScript.

The individual will be hired through the Biology Department at the University of New Mexico and will be affiliated with the USDA Forest Service – Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS). The individual will be supervised by Dr. Gavin Jones (RMRS and University of New Mexico) and will collaborate closely with a team of researchers including Dr. John Squires (RMRS), Dr. Lucretia Olson (RMRS), Dr. Jody Tucker (RMRS), Dr. Helen Chmura (RMRS), Dr. Jessie Golding (Carnegie Mellon), and others. We have a strong preference for a candidate to join our team on-site in Albuquerque. We believe that community is an important part of science, and to this end we are building a local lab community. However, remote or telework options may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Ideal start date for the position is 1 January 2023, but there is some flexibility here depending on the needs and constraints of the candidate. The position will be funded for a duration of 2 years, with possibility of extension pending funding availability and performance. Starting salary will range from \$55,000 to \$62,000, depending on qualifications and degree status. Insurance and benefits package included, and we will reimburse up to \$5000 in relocation expenses.

### How to apply

Email a 1-page cover letter describing your background and interests in the position, a CV, and contact information for 3 references to Dr. Gavin Jones ([gavinjones@unm.edu](mailto:gavinjones@unm.edu)). **Applications are due by November 1, 2022.**



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