

M.Sc. Habitat quality and horn growth in bighorn sheep

I am looking for a M.Sc. student to explore the links between habitat quality and horn growth of bighorn rams. We recently showed that horn size of rams has declined in the last 40 years in Alberta. Part of this decline is due to trophy hunting but some could be explained by changes in habitat quality. Thus, we want to combine GIS maps of the Canadian Rockies with data on harvested rams to evaluate whether the decline in horn size is associated with declines in range quality. This research will be in collaboration with Prof. Marco Festa-Bianchet at the Université de Sherbrooke. The student will also spend two field seasons helping with the long-term study at Ram Mountain where individually marked bighorn sheep have been monitored from birth to death since 1971.

Candidates for this position should have knowledge of 'basic' French (or a strong willingness to learn it), fieldwork experience, strong quantitative skills and knowledge of spatial analyses (ARC GIS). Canadian candidates will be preferred, but strong foreign candidates will be seriously considered.

A tax-free scholarship is available, and financing for travel, fieldwork and lab expenses is secured. The program can begin in either May or September 2016 or January 2017.

For information on my research, see <http://pages.usherbrooke.ca/fpelletier/>

Interested candidates should e-mail a CV, a statement of research interests and the e-mails of two referees able to evaluate the candidate's research potential to Fanie Pelletier: fanie.pelletier@usherbrooke.ca