

Interested in Working with Moose in Alaska?



Graduate Research/Teaching Assistantships Available in Large Ungulate Nutritional Ecology/Habitat Research In Southcentral Alaska



As part of a collaborative research effort between the US Forest Service (Pacific Northwest Research Station, the Chugach National Forest), Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the University of Alaska Anchorage, we invite applications from highly motivated and quant-

itatively-oriented individuals seeking an MS or a PhD in Biology (emphasis in Integrated Ecological Systems Dynamics) to fill two graduate assistantships (split research and teaching assistantships) at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The project on which both graduate students will be working is a comparative nutritional ecology study on the famous Nelchina Basin and the Kenai Peninsula of Southcentral Alaska. The two linked studies will focus on the foraging ecology of moose and caribou on selected sites of both ranges using tame animals, and on the nutritional characterization of their ranges and diets. One student will focus on the field ecology, including diet characterization of moose and caribou in the field (using both tame and wild animals, comparing direct observation, microhistological, and fecal alkane analyses), conduct habitat surveys, and perhaps be involved in habitat manipulation experiments such as prescribed fire on selected vegetation types. Applicants with a strong background in botany, nutrition, habitat analysis, and/or Geographic Information Systems are encouraged to apply for this position.

The second student will focus on a suite of nutritional and chemical tests on plants, and on nutritional marker studies on fistulated animals to determine digestion and passage of plants, and their nutritional value (particularly N, energy, and perhaps micronutrients of potential importance) of available foods to the animals. Candidates with a strong background in organic and analytical chemistry and/or animal nutrition are encouraged to apply for this position.



Both positions require candidates with excellent quantitative and technical writing skills. Both candidates must have excellent interpersonal social skills, because they will be working closely with each other, with undergraduate students at UAA, and with the principal investigators of the Project. These positions require work in remote locations under extreme conditions, and therefore the candidates must be physically fit, highly motivated, and competent in the field. The individuals will be working closely with tame moose and caribou, and therefore experience handling large animals would be beneficial. We expect to fill these positions in the spring of 2006 for enrollment in the fall of 2006, however, summer positions on both projects are available for the successful candidates beginning in early June, 2006. For more information on these positions, contact Don Spalinger, University of Alaska Anchorage (907-786-4703; afdes@uaa.alaska.edu).

The Department of Biological Sciences University of Alaska Anchorage

The Department of Biological Sciences at UAA is comprised of 28 full-time faculty, and its graduate program houses approximately 30-40 graduate students at any one time. The MS graduate degree is offered in Biological Sciences, with emphasis in molecular or evolution/ecology. The PhD degree is offered through a cooperative arrangement with the Department of Biology and Wildlife at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. See our website at <u>http://biology.uaa.alaska.ed</u>u (currently in revision) for more information about the department and its faculty.

Project Collaborators

Dr. Don Spalinger, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alaska Anchorage (afdes@uaa.alaska.edu)

Dr. Bill Collins, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (william_collins@fishgame.state.ak.us)

Dr. Thomas Hanley, Pacific Northwest Research Station, US Forest Service (<u>thanley@fs.fed.us</u>)

Dr. Grant Harris, Chugach National Forest, US Forest Service (gmharris@fs.fed.us)

