**Graduate Student Position at the University of New Hampshire – Conservation and Population Modeling of an At-Risk Species**

Seeking a motivated graduate student (MS or PhD) for Fall 2023 to conduct research in conservation of the imperiled New England cottontail rabbit, at the University of New Hampshire, in Dr. Adrienne Kovach’s lab (<http://www.kovachlab.com)> in the Department of Natural Resources & the Environment.

The student will be supported on a Research Assistantship to conduct research that seeks to evaluate population abundance and predict future viability in response to anticipated restoration scenarios for a threatened lagomorph. A focus will be to apply spatially explicit genetic mark-recapture abundance estimation and to develop models that predict density for known New England cottontail metapopulations and conservation focus areas. Additional work may include predictive population viability modeling in a spatially explicit context. In the case of a PhD focus, students may pursue additional research questions of their own design, which may center around additional population modeling and/or include genetic data to address conservation genetics concerns. The research and modeling tools developed under this project will be applied to the conservation of New England cottontail populations through a range-wide conservation initiative. The New England Cottontail Conservation Initiative is a large, multi-state collaborative effort that has been focused for a dozen years on restoration of this at-risk species. Graduate students will be immersed in a network, including conservation partners and academic researchers collaborating in this initiative, providing strong outreach and engagement opportunities. Working within this system provides students an opportunity to participate in and help inform adaptive management.

Masters students will be enrolled in the Masters program in Wildlife and Conservation Biology in the Department of Natural Resources (<https://colsa.unh.edu/natural-resources-environment/program/ms/natural-resources-wildlife-conservation-biology>). PhD students will be enrolled in the Natural Resources and Earth Systems Science (NRESS) program (<https://www.unh.edu/nressphd>). The University of New Hampshire is committed to social justice and actively creates an educational environment that fosters diversity, inclusion, and quality engagement for all.

**Qualifications:** Successful candidates will have a background in wildlife/ecology/conservation and strong analytical and quantitative skills. Experience with genetic sampling or genetic lab work is desirable, but not a requirement. Willingness to work collaboratively and advance diversity, equity and inclusivity is required. Good communication skills are also desirable. Individuals who are intellectually curious, responsible, eager to learn, team-oriented, and have attention to detail are encouraged to apply.

**How to apply**: Please send a 1) cover letter describing your qualifications, explicitly in relation to the qualifications listed above, including your commitment to diversity and inclusion, 2) a curriculum vitae or resume, 3) unofficial transcripts, and 4) contact information for at least three references to Adrienne Kovach at adrienne.kovach@unh.edu.

**Salary:** $22,140 for 9 months + $12,000 summer; for a total of $34,140

The University of New Hampshire (an RI research institution) and the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (<https://colsa.unh.edu/natural-resources-environment>) are home to a vibrant community of productive researchers with a strong commitment to student success.  Located in the town of Durham, UNH is a beautiful campus surrounded by forest and natural landscapes.  Only 30 minutes from the sea and less than 2 hours from the White Mountains, outdoor and other recreational activities abound, including right on campus.

The University of New Hampshire is a public institution with a long-standing commitment to equal opportunity for all. It is an EEO/AA employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, veteran's status, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, services, or activities. Please contact the Affirmative Action and Equity Office, Thompson Hall 305, 105 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824-3547 at 603-862-2930 (voice), TTY: (603) 862-1527 • Relay NH: 7-1-1, or affirmaction.equity@unh.edu with questions or concerns.