

Master Student Project

Project title: Selection of habitat and resources during migration by a large mammal

Supervisors: Dr. Navinder J Singh (navinder.singh@slu.se) and Prof. Göran Ericsson.

Description: Long distance migration of animals is a well known phenomenon across the globe. Most of the research on animal migration has focussed on identifying the key habitat features in the seasonal ranges (summer and winter) of the migratory species. This is because most of the energy build up occurs during these periods. However, little is known about what strategies do animals adopt 'during' migration. This is a key period because the success of reaching either of the seasonal ranges depends upon the optimal habitat selected to minimize costs and mortality during the migratory phase. Also, the selection of a least costly migratory path will ensure the success of migration and hence animals will demonstrate fidelity to such areas. Using Scandinavian moose as a case study, the project aims to identify the key variables determining the habitat and resource selection during migration and study the fidelity towards the migratory routes.

Requirements: motivated person who is not scared of large datasets and numbers and keen on spatial ecology and GIS. The project will be a desk based study with keen focus on quantitative analyses. There will be no field work. The study will be strongly aimed towards one or two peer reviewed publications for an international journal, hence strong writing skills are desired.

To apply: Please send a letter of interest explaining your suitability for the project.