

Intern needs for WILDCOM 2024

Interns can be shared among projects, depending on outside condition and interest levels.

1. Project: Camera trapping at Evenstad lia

Contact person: Petra Kaczensky petra.kaczensky@inn.no

Background: We are running a camera trapping grid with 70 cameras on the mountain behind the university to ultimately monitor long-term trends in species distribution in a typical boreal forest ecosystem. The study area has an elevational gradient between 250m and 820m and covers a mosaic of forests subject to timber harvest as well as protected areas. Typical boreal species from moose, over lynx, to mountain hare and pine marten roam the forests. In winter, the c. 35 km² study site is accessible by car along one road, while the rest needs to be reached on snow shoes or skis.

Tasks:

Outdoors: Checking cameras to adjust to increasing snow heights, changing SD cards, checking battery levels and camera function, measuring snow heights.

Indoors: Organising SD cards into folders. Image categorisation.

Requirements:

- Able to work independent in the forest under winter conditions.
- Valid driver's licence for driving non-automatic cars.
- Knowledge of boreal mammal and forest birds is desirable, but can also be learnt on the job

When: From January 2024 on.

2. Project: Drone surveys for population estimates of dryland ungulates

Contact person: Petra Kaczensky petra.kaczensky@inn.no & Thomas Vogler thomas.vogler@inn.no

Background: We are exploring the use of drones to estimate population size and trend of dryland ungulates in Kazakhstan. Focal species are: Asiatic Wild Ass or kulan, goitered gazelle, and saiga antelope. Images were collected during a range of drone surveys in Altyn Emel National Park, Barsa Kelmes State Nature Reserve, and the Altyn Dala area in central Kazakhstan. In order to train an AI for automatic object (animal) detection, we need to create a large enough training data set, requiring manual scanning of drone images.

Tasks:

Manual classification of drone images.

When: From February 2024 on.

3. Project TaigaClimat: How does snow cover affect the availability and use of bilberries by moose

Contact person: Simen Moflag Talleraas simen.talleraas@inn.no

Background:

Boreal forest is a basis for many societies in the taiga zone where natural and cultural heritage is tightly connected to forests and wildlife. It is home to a high diversity of species, ecological processes and functions. climate change will radically transform the northern forests - the foundation for societies across Nordic countries. Climate change will bring storms, fire, and pressure on wildlife. One aspect of the project looks at Moose foraging, especially in respect to bilberries. A number of moose has been equipped with video collars, which recorded their foraging behavior.

Task: Analysing videos of foraging moose by recording info about snow conditions, forestry characteristics, and the plant species the moose forages on.

Requirements:

No specific qualifications needed. Some knowledge about forestry, common tree and plant species, cutting class etc. is desirable.

The tasks can be performed anywhere, as long as the intern has access to a computer.