

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP (3 YEARS): CONSERVATION SOCIAL SCIENCE IN THE YELLOWSTONE TO YUKON REGION

Location: Canmore, Alberta, Canada (with travel to Prince George, BC and in the Y2Y region)

Salary range: \$55,000-60,000 CAD/year for three years

Start date: On or before 1 October 2021

Deadline to apply: 10 June 2021

Web posting: www.y2y.net/careers

Summary: The Yellowstone to Yukon vision is an interconnected system of wild lands and waters stretching from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to the northern Yukon, harmonizing the needs of people with those of nature. The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) is a joint Canada-U.S. non-profit dedicated to conserving the 3200 km-long Yellowstone to Yukon region. Spanning five American states, two Canadian provinces and two territories, and the territories of at least 75 Indigenous groups, the Y2Y region encompasses a diverse array of communities. At 1.3 million km², it is equivalent in size to twice that of Texas or Alberta. The organization has worked collaboratively with over 450 partners in the last 25 years, including governments, Indigenous communities, industry, landowners, natural and social scientists, outdoors groups, and other non-profits to achieve its mission of *connecting and protecting habitat from Yellowstone to Yukon so people and nature can thrive*.

The University of Northern British Columbia (Dr. Pamela Wright) collaborates with Y2Y on topics including systematic conservation planning, ecological connectivity and climate change, and recreation ecology. This includes undergraduate and graduate student and postdoctoral fellow collaborations amongst other arrangements. This position is a continuation of that applied research partnership.

Project description: UNBC (Dr. Pamela Wright) and Y2Y (Dr. Aerin Jacob) seek a conservation social science postdoctoral fellow to work on a three-year initiative. Achieving the Y2Y mission inherently involves people, including ensuring an equitable and just distribution of benefits and risks, successfully engaging people to take conservation action, supporting thriving communities, and more.

Working with Drs. Jacob and Wright, the postdoctoral fellow will collaborate with Y2Y staff and partners to study the social, political, and economic implications of alternative public policies related to the protection, management, and use of wildlife and natural resources. The awareness, attitudes and behaviours of individuals and groups as these relate to conservation and management are explored to identify successful strategies. The postdoctoral fellow will help determine where and how conservation activities intersect with people, enhance scientific understanding of human well-being within Y2Y conservation priorities, and when to broaden focus to better understand impacts and secure benefits and equity for people. They will provide technical and scientific support and leadership around social sciences and people-related aspects of Y2Ys work, including:

- 1) Lead and collaborate on applied research with emphasis on social and human dimensions of nature across the Y2Y region, including develop research questions and proposals; conduct literature reviews; design studies, collect, and analyze data, write and share results;
- 2) Interpret scientific research and communicate its relevance to law, regulation, and policy and other applications for conservation related to the Y2Y mission and vision; and,
- 3) Communicate about complex relevant topics, including new research, in various forms to diverse audiences (e.g., written reports, online and in-person presentations, discussions; both technical and non-technical audiences).

Applicants should have a working knowledge of conservation (and ideally existing relationships) in western North America and bring commitment to and experience promoting a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion. They should be a strong written and verbal communicator who thrives in working with diverse collaborators and is comfortable with remote teams. They will support collaborative fundraising and should be comfortable traveling within the Y2Y region, including to remote or sparsely populated areas. This position is ideal for a collaborative self-starter committed to applied research and actionable science, and with outstanding interpersonal and project management skills.

Qualifications: Ph.D. granted within the last five years. Candidates may come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds (e.g., human geography, environmental studies, natural resources, political science, psychology, economics) and must have experience conducting social science research applied to conservation or natural resource management.

Essential skills and experience include:

- Applied research in social-ecological systems
- Both quantitative and qualitative research methods
- Leading and working with cross functional, interdisciplinary teams
- Synthesizing, interpreting, and effectively communicating information across disciplines
- Record of publication in scientific journals, technical reports, and/or book chapters
- Effective communication and outreach to non-technical audiences

Desired skills and experience include:

- Familiarity with ecology, conservation, and wildlife biology, ideally in the Y2Y region
- Use and/or training in common data analysis tools (e.g., R, SPSS, nVivo, ATLAS or Provalis) and GIS applications in the social sciences (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS) and participatory GIS approaches
- Supervising undergraduate students, technicians, and volunteers
- Multi-language skills and multi-cultural or cross-cultural experience

We particularly encourage applications from people who identify as part of marginalized, minoritized, and/or under-represented and equity-seeking groups. More information about Y2Y's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in conservation science and practice is available upon request.

Start date and setting: Start on or before 1 October 2021. Location will be based at the Y2Y head office in Canmore, Alberta, Canada with significant time spent at the UNBC campus in Prince George, British Columbia; some travel within the Y2Y region (US and Canada). Given the COVID-19 pandemic, remote work is supported until the Y2Y head office and UNBC reopen.

Salary range: \$55,000-60,000 CAD per year for three years commensurate with qualifications and experience; additional support for professional development. Second and third years of funding contingent upon progress in years 1 and 2.

To apply: Applications must include a cover letter (addressing your interest and experience in the topic, how you meet both the essential and desired qualifications, and relationship to career goals), CV, and contact information for three references. Documents must be submitted in a single PDF file ("Y2YPostdoc-FirstNameLastName.pdf") with the position title as the subject header to pamela.wright@unbc.ca. Questions about accessibility-related accommodations during the application and/or interview processes may be directed to Simon Ongom, Y2Y Financial Controller, simon@y2y.net.

Closing date: Deadline 10 June 2021 or until position is filled. Interviews anticipated in June/July 2021.

Additional information: To learn more about Y2Y, visit www.y2y.net. To learn more about the Conservation Science lab at UNBC visit <http://blogs.unbc.ca/conservationsciencelab/>.