



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN



## Post-doctoral researcher – Prairie Bat Conservation

**Position Description:** We are looking for a post-doctoral researcher to join an inter-agency project on the management and conservation of endangered bats in Saskatchewan. In response to the arrival of the invasive fungal disease, white nose syndrome (WNS), in the province, the University of Saskatchewan (co-PI: Jeffrey Lane) and Ministry of Environment (co-PIs: Erin Swerdfeger and Iga Stasiak) have launched a large-scale project on bat monitoring and research. Specifically, we are attempting to locate critical (hibernation sites) and important habitat (swarming sites and maternity roosts) for endangered bats (little brown and northern *Myotis*) in the province. We are also assessing the influences of landscape modification (specifically, increased agricultural intensification) on the activity, condition and health of bats. Additional initiatives include development and roll-out of a public information and community science campaign, and coordination of bat research and management among multiple individuals and agencies throughout Saskatchewan.

**Role of the post-doctoral researcher:** We are interested in supporting a post-doctoral researcher who can help oversee and coordinate the multiple activities being undertaken as part of this project, and pursue independent research directions within this framework. Specific datasets that are available include acoustic data collected across multiple habitat types over the past three years (with potential for bringing in data from related projects over additional years and habitats), capture data of bats (beginning in 2022 and continuing until at least 2024) and habitat data (e.g., on agricultural use, and potential suitability for hibernacula and reproduction). Future data collection efforts will include body composition measurements from captured animals, radiotelemetry of tagged bats, acoustic data from community science programs, and bat box usage. There are multiple opportunities to collaborate with other researchers across Saskatchewan, and take advantage in-hand research infrastructure (e.g., to measure energetics of bats with portable respirometry equipment). This is an excellent opportunity for someone to pursue conservation-relevant research, within a multi-agency collaboration. We anticipate it serving to facilitate future employment in academia, government or private industry.

**Requirements:** A Ph.D. is required (we will consider applicants near to completion of their Ph.D., if concrete evidence of imminent completion (e.g., a scheduled defence date) is provided). This is a large-scale project with multiple inter-connected activities. The successful candidate will thus be highly organized and able to multi-task, with excellent time management skills. Data collection will involve extended periods in the field during the spring-autumn and supervision/coordination of field crews of 4-6 (including seasonal technicians and graduate students). Previous fieldwork and supervisory experience are thus expected (obtained, for example, during Ph.D. research). Research on bats involves some unique protocols (e.g., mist-netting and bat handling and acoustic data analysis). Previous experience working with bats is thus considered a very strong asset. The successful applicant will also have experience in data entry and checking and management of databases. A clean driver's license is necessary, and experience towing trailers is considered a strong asset. The applicant must be able to work well with members of their own team, as well as other involved individuals (i.e., collaborators, landowners, community members).

**Terms of Employment:** Salary will be \$50 000 (CAD)/year plus benefits (Health, Dental and Insurance). The initial appointment is for two years. Extensions beyond the two-year period are possible, conditional on additional funding. We are particularly keen on working with the successful candidate to secure additional funding through competitive fellowships (e.g., Liber Ero, Mitacs or NSERC fellowships). Information on benefits is available from the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (UoFS).

If you wish to apply for this position, please send an academic CV, cover letter, 1 page description of research interests, and contact details for three references (with e-mail addresses), by email to Jeff Lane

(contact info below). Applications will be reviewed as they are received. To ensure full consideration, please apply as soon as possible.

Contact:

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