Graduate Student Project: Landscape-scale habitat selection and patterns of spatial occupancy by American martens in response to extensive partial harvesting.

Resumes and cover letters are currently being accepted for a Ph.D. (previous M.S. degree required) or M.S. (outstanding performance in a strong B.S. program with significant relevant experiences) position in the lab of Dr. Daniel Harrison at the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology, and Dr. Erin Simons-Legaard at the School of Forest Resources, The University of Maine. This student will conduct field research with the aid of technicians in a remote area of commercially managed forests in northern Maine to address patterns of occurrence of American martens in a landscape that has been logged extensively using selection harvesting. Spatial patterns of occupancy will be compared to baseline studies involving >100 radio collared martens during the 1980’s and 1990’s and prior to the enactment of the Maine Forest Practices Act, which has contributed to an increase in harvest extent and a shift to partial harvesting. Strong field skills, ability to work efficiently and safely in rugged terrain, experience with radio telemetry, a valid U.S. driver’s license, GIS skills, experience and demonstrated proficiency with technical writing, and significant analytical skills with interests in habitat modeling are desired. Applicants should possess a B.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology, Biology or a related field, with significant relevant experiences, or should hold an M.S. degree with evidence of publications from previous work. Names, titles, and contact information for references should be provided in the resume. Applicants should have above average GRE scores and excellent verbal and written skills in English. Three years of assistantship covering 12 months/year are anticipated (one semester of TA responsibility and the remainder RA), plus tuition and 50% of health care premium for graduate students. Additional duration for Assistantship (4 years) will be pursued if a Ph.D. student is selected. RA support is available starting fall 2017 and it would be most desirable if the accepted candidate could participate in the project remotely starting September 2017 and will be expected to be on campus no later than 1 November 2017. Application materials should be forwarded to harrison@maine.edu as soon as possible and no later than 31 August 2017. The position will be filled as soon as an acceptable candidate is selected. A brief e-mail with a personal description and indication of intent to apply would also be appreciated.