

# PROJECT CONDITIONS

## TRACKING FIRE AND WOLVES THROUGH THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

### ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All participants must be able, independently or with the assistance of a companion, to:

- Follow verbal and/or visual instructions closely at all times.
- Enjoy being outdoors all day in all types of weather.
- Hike throughout the day, off-trail, or uphill on slippery vegetation and uneven terrain. Totalling about 6-12 miles per day. Light week ("Aspen" team) involves hiking throughout the day, off-trail, or uphill on slippery vegetation and uneven terrain for 3-6 miles per day.
- With training provided, be prepared for likely encounters with wild animals, including grizzly bears. This involves carrying bear spray and a radio, and during an encounter following instructions exactly in order to leave the area calmly, but quickly, in a group, so as to not upset the bear and not to endanger teammates.
- Be able to keep up with the team as we move in and out of the field, for safety reasons (eg, avoiding grizzly bear encounters).
- Complete all required transects in timely manner to avoid putting strain on the rest of team
- Tolerate the presence of insects such as mosquitos and wasps.
- Independently carry personal equipment (food, water, various layers of clothing), as well as a small amount of research equipment (up to ten additional pounds per person), totaling 30 lbs. Be able to wear pack all day, including while gathering data, for safety reasons (see packing list suggestions for appropriate backpacks for this).
- Protect oneself from dehydration and exposure to sun and heat by carrying two liters of water and drinking plenty of water throughout the day and wearing appropriate clothing and sunscreen.
- Sit on the ground to eat lunch or record data; designated rest places (e.g., benches) are not available.
- Get low to the ground while taking measurements, while wearing a pack.
- Be comfortable with the idea of encountering, and investigating, animal carcasses in the field. They will provide important information about the carnivores in the area.
- Get oneself up into and down out of a vehicle and ride, seated with seatbelt fastened.
- Remain respectful of the wildlife we are studying, as well as their habitat. This includes not approaching any wildlife we see, such as elk, grizzly bears, or wolves, and not photographing wildlife during field work (you will have non-research-time opportunities to photograph local wildlife).
- Be comfortable to be trained in the use of a GPS, compass, rangefinder, clinometer, diameter-at-breast-height tape, leveling rod, and other equipment.

