

Recruitment of practice students for 2021

In the CarniForeGraze project, we have several possibilities for practice students, some during next summer, but also one for this winter.

About CarniForeGraze: Grazing in carnivore forests for sustainable production of food, timber and biodiversity

Our vision is a carnivore-compatible method for livestock production in the outfields (here: boreal forest) that enhances tree growth in young forest stands, increases abundance and diversity in plants and pollinators and contributes to local and regional economy and food security. For this, we aim to gather interdisciplinary knowledge and user experience on livestock grazing in carnivore-exposed, forested areas and use this knowledge to propose innovative solutions for the sharing of the common goods that the boreal forest provides. This project contributes to the mitigation of one of Norway's most pronounced conflict lines related to the use and conservation of outfields. The recovery of large carnivores has triggered multiple, interconnected conflicts of interests along with a drastic decrease in outfield grazing in the forested region of south-eastern Norway. Our project aims at optimizing economic and ecological sustainability for agriculture (livestock production, pollinators), forestry (wood) and game harvest in sympatry with large carnivores. We are interested in an agroforestry system that can lead to win-win synergies for different groups of interest.

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This winter/next spring (Somewhere between now and April):

Vandalism on clearcuts: Who has damaged the tree saplings?

We have recorded the damages on tree saplings and at the same time wildlife cameras have been recording the activity on the clearcut, so we (hopefully) can tell how has been damaging the trees (cattle, sheep, moose, deer). The practice student will help me analysing the pictures taken by the wildlife cameras.

Housing: At campus Evenstad.

Special requirements: None.

Next summer (somewhere between May and September):

Does cattle grazing increase plant biodiversity on clearcuts?

To study cattle grazing effects on plant biodiversity, we will record the vegetation on species level at a large number of sampling plots. We haven't decided yet how many times we will repeat the recordings, but the fieldwork will take place between May and September. The practice student will help me recording the plant species.

Housing: At campus Evenstad and/or in a cabin in the field.

Special requirements: Plant identification skills. Passed at least one course that included the use of plant identification keys. Car/driving license is an advantage.

Does cattle grazing increase pollinator biodiversity on clearcuts?

To study cattle grazing effects on pollinator biodiversity, we will sample pollinators using pan traps on clearcuts. We haven't decided yet how many times we will repeat the recordings, but the fieldwork will take place between May and September. The practice student will set up pan traps and collect the traps pollinators. In case the student has high pollinator identification skills, the student might also go into this.

Housing: At campus Evenstad and/or in a cabin in the field.

Special requirements: Pollinator identification skills are on advantage. For example having passed a course that included the use of plant identification keys. Car/driving license is an advantage.

Filming cows in the woods

To study large carnivores effects on the behaviour of cattle grazing in the forest (Are they more vigilant? Do they spend less time grazing?), we first need to calibrate the accelerometers used in this study. This is done by linking observed cattle behaviour (which we will film) to the data recorded by the accelerometers worn by the cow. The practice student will follow the cattle in the woods and film them. We haven't decided yet on the exact filming periods, but it will be done somewhere between May and September.

One possibility for the student would be to use some of the collected material to make a small movie about cattle husbandry in carnivore exposed areas.

Housing: At campus Evenstad and/or in a cabin in the field.

Special requirements: Experience from filming/making movies is an advantage.

Car/driving license is an advantage.