

Winter ECL290

Applying animal behavior knowledge to improve ungulate translocation and restoration efforts



Meeting Days/Times: 1 hour/week, Day/Time TBD

CRN: 20996

Location: Virtual format (unless as a group we decide otherwise)

Faculty: Justine Smith

Organizer: Greta Schmidt (gmschmidt@ucdavis.edu for questions/info)

Brief course description: Ungulates encompass a diverse clade of hoofed mammals that occupy important ecological, social, and economic roles. Ungulate populations are in decline worldwide, and conservation translocations are a common strategy used to bolster diminishing populations, reintroduce animals where locally extirpated, and restore ecosystem function. Translocations require a large investment of time, effort, and resources, and can be prone to failure. Behavioral difficulties have been cited by managers as a barrier to wildlife translocation success generally, and integrating behavioral ecology into ungulate translocation efforts can have implications for conservation outcomes. **We will review the ungulate translocation, restoration, and rewilding literature, focusing on how variation in behavioral domains (e.g., movement/dispersal behavior, antipredator behavior, sociality) across species can inform conservation efforts and improve outcomes. Non-ungulate focused folks welcome! Papers do not need to be exclusive to ungulates, but should center behavior & restoration.**