A 2-year postdoctoral position in Conservation Genomics is available at the University of New Hampshire, in Adrienne Kovach’s lab (http://www.kovachlab.com) in the Department of Natural Resources & the Environment.

The postdoctoral researcher will conduct conservation genomics research and develop genomic tools for monitoring the imperiled New England cottontail. Research objectives will include developing and applying a SNP panel for noninvasive monitoring of populations via fecal pellet samples and genome sequencing to investigate inbreeding in vulnerable populations. Additional research opportunities exist for investigation of cottontail diets and gut microbiome via metabarcoding, to evaluate hypotheses about habitat quality and diet in relation to forage availability. The postdoctoral researcher will join the Kovach lab, which has been conducting conservation genetics and genetic monitoring of cottontails for over a decade. The researcher will be instrumental in bringing these protocols into the genomic era. The research and monitoring tools developed under this project will be applied to the management of cottontail populations (e.g., tracking the success of reintroductions, identifying priority populations for genetic augmentation, etc.) through a range-wide New England Cottontail Conservation Initiative. The postdoc will have an opportunity to work closely with collaborators in this initiative and thereby to conduct engaged, applied research with direct conservation impacts. The position provides professional development opportunities in outreach and experience with science-based decision-making for species of conservation concern.

The successful candidate will have a strong background in population genetics, genomics and bioinformatics, and laboratory bench skills relevant to genomic library preparation and sequencing. Strong interest in conservation science is preferred. Desired computational skills include data processing in a command-line environment and programming in at least one scripting language (e.g., R, Python). Additional desired qualifications include quantitative skills and excellent communication and writing skills. The ideal candidate will engage collaboratively with conservation partners and lab members and participate in mentoring of undergraduate and/or graduate students. In turn, the postdoc will receive extensive mentoring, career development training, and professional opportunities, in alignment with a personal career development plan.

Start Date: October 1, 2021

Terms of employment: Salary of $48,000, health insurance, and other benefits are included. The position is for a 2-year period. Applicants must have completed all Ph.D. degree requirements prior to the start of the appointment.

Application: submit names and contact information for three references, a CV, and a 2-page statement of your research experience and interests. The statement should further address how this position would advance your career goals and describe your experiences with and vision for collaborative science, including your commitment to diversity and inclusion. To apply, send the requested materials to Dr. Adrienne Kovach at the University of New Hampshire at akovach@unh.edu. Review of applications will begin March 31, 2021 and continue until position is filled. Remote (Zoom) interview and presentation will be required of short-listed finalists.

The University of New Hampshire and the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (https://colsa.unh.edu/natural-resources-environment) are home to a vibrant
community of productive researchers with a strong commitment to student success. Located in the town of Durham, UNH is a beautiful campus surrounded by forest and natural landscapes. Only 30 minutes from the sea and less than 2 hours from the White Mountains, outdoor and other recreational activities abound, including right on campus.

The University of New Hampshire is a public institution with a long-standing commitment to equal opportunity for all. It is an EEO/AA employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, veteran’s status, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, services, or activities. Please contact the Affirmative Action and Equity Office, Thompson Hall 305, 105 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824-3547 at 603-862-2930 (voice), TTY: (603) 862-1527 Relay NH: 7-1-1, or affirmaction.equity@unh.edu with questions or concerns.