

Ashley D. Evans

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Education

MS Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Ecology

Las Cruces, NM

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

2020 - 2024

- Minor in Geographic Information Systems and Technology
- Thesis: The Influence of Recreational Disturbance on Desert Bighorn Sheep Behavior and Stress in Western Colorado
- GPA: 4.0

BS Fisheries and Wildlife Science, BS Natural Resource Sustainability Studies

Paul Smiths, NY

PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE

2012 - 2016

- Minors in Geographic Information Systems and Chemistry
- GPA: 4.0, graduated summa cum laude

Professional Experience

Graduate Research Assistant

Las Cruces, NM / Delta, CO

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

2020 - 2024

- Developed methodology, collected field data, conducted extensive data analysis, and wrote a research thesis quantifying recreational use and investigating the influence of human recreation on desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis* ssp.) behavior and stress hormones
- Independently managed two-year field data collection with minimal supervision in the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area
- Collected, managed, and organized large ecological datasets using R, Microsoft Access, and Timelapse, including 2.2 million game camera photos, 220,000 GPS locations, 2,000 focal animal samples, 600 scan samples, and 250 fecal samples
- Conducted rigorous analysis of ecological and spatial datasets in R to predict recreational usage and the influence of recreational timing and intensity on desert bighorn using generalized linear mixed models
- Project administration including developing research methods and protocols, planning capture priorities and preparing capture kits, designing data entry survey in Survey123 for efficient and accurate data collection, and prioritizing data collection efforts
- Interviewed, hired, trained, and supervised 9 project personnel
- Wrote grant proposals and secured over \$22,000 in supplemental research funds and scholarships
- Conducted behavioral observations using high powered optics in all weather conditions up to 2km away, collected hundreds of fecal pellet samples, installed and maintained over 70 game cameras to monitor recreation, and conducted necropsies on deceased bighorn to determine cause of death

Wildlife Technician

Alpine, AK

ABR, Inc

2024 - 2024

- Located shorebird nests using rope drag and behavioral searches while hiking over strenuous tundra environments on the north slope of Alaska
- Identified avian species by sight and sound and performed avian predator point counts
- Monitored nest success and conducted vegetation surveys

Desert Bighorn Sheep Scientific Aide

Bishop, CA

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

2016 - 2020

- Prioritized assigned tasks while working and camping year-round in the extreme environment presented by the Mojave Desert
- Backpacked and hiked in remote wilderness areas to deploy and retrieve game cameras, search for desert bighorn sheep sign, and locate animals using radio telemetry and spotting scope
- Collected demographic data by monitoring water sources, collecting fecal pellets, hiking transects, and using the double observer method from a helicopter
- Monitored bighorn survival with radio telemetry while flying for multiple hours in a Cessna 185
- Performed field necropsies to collect biological and disease samples and determine cause of mortality
- Inspected and monitored natural and artificial water sources and coordinated efforts for maintenance, repair, and water hauling with other government agencies and NGOs
- Assisted in the organization and execution of capture activities including leading processing crews in restraining and collaring the animal and collecting multiple biological samples including blood and physical measurements, all while continually monitoring vitals
- Educated the public about desert and Sierra Nevada bighorn including at the Sheep Show and with a delegation from Kazakhstan
- Assisted in the organization of and presented at desert bighorn hunter orientations and conducted hunter harvest check-outs
- Coauthored and created professional maps for official Department reports
- Organized, managed and analyzed large datasets using ArcGIS, Program R, and Microsoft Access

Research Technician

Mojave Desert, CA

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

2018 - 2020

- Deployed and maintained game cameras at interstate culverts and overpasses during all seasons in the Mojave Desert while coordinating field duties with a remote supervisor

Game Camera Photo Processor

Mojave Desert, CA

YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

2019

- Deployed and maintained game cameras during the summer at remote water sources in the Mojave Desert
- Processed nearly 4 TB of photographs, identifying bighorn group age and sex classifications and meticulously recorded data using Microsoft Access

Fish Weir Operator (volunteer)

Grand Canyon National Park, AZ

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2019

- Worked independently to check and maintain a fish weir on Bright Angel Creek at the bottom of the Grand Canyon
- Educated the public about removal of nonnative fish species and promotion of native fish populations

Raptor Banding Field Technician

Adirondack Mountains, NY

ADIRONDACK RAPTORS

2014 - 2016

- Deployed and monitored mistnets and removed, banded, and took physical measurements of Northern saw-whet owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) from sunset until early morning
- Trapped, measured, and banded red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) using bal chatri traps
- Conducted Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) nest searches in old-growth coniferous forest
- Identified perched and flying raptor species of northern New York
- Handled numerous captive hawk and owl species during educational presentations

Black Bear Hair Snare Technician

Louisiana

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

2015

- Worked independently to build, repair, and bait Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*) hair snares and to collect hair samples using strict protocols
- Worked in hot, humid, and buggy conditions in flooded bottom-land hardwood forests
- Drove 4x4 ATVs and trucks through primitive, muddy trails, operated winches to free ATVs from mud, and performed general maintenance of machinery.

Primate Rehabilitation Intern

Chiriquí, Panama

ALOUATTA SANCTUARY

2015

- Raised and rehabilitated orphaned infant mantled howler monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*)
- Conducted instantaneous focal animal and scan behavioral sampling daily using an ethogram
- Prepared food and provided enrichment for captive white-faced capuchin (*Cebus capucinis*) and Geoffroy's tamarins (*Saguinus geoffroyi*)
- Conducted bird and mammal surveys in primary rainforest, set up and retrieved camera traps, and identified wildlife species captured in photographs

Reptile Field Technician

Sevilleta NWR, NM

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

2014

- Collected behavioral data in a controlled field experiment studying the effect of a perceived predator on the behavioral thermoregulation of spiny mountain lizards (*Sceloporus jarrovi*)
- Conducted general husbandry and handling of lizards, removed vegetation from study area, and constructed and maintained a field site
- Conducted experimental trials and recorded lizard responses using strict protocols in summer in the Chihuahuan Desert

Publications

- Glass, D. M., P. R. Prentice, A. D. Evans, and O. J. Schmitz. 2022. Local differences in maximum temperature determine water use among desert bighorn sheep populations. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.22313>
- Prentice, P., R. Ianniello, A. Evans, L. Harrison, and T. Stephenson. 2020. Desert Bighorn Sheep Status Report November 2016 to October 2019. Official Report by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (Non-peer-reviewed)
- Prentice, P., A. Evans, D. Glass, R. Ianniello, and T. Stephenson. 2018. Desert Bighorn Sheep Status Report November 2013 to October 2016. Official Report by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (Non-peer-reviewed)

Conference Presentations

New Mexico State University Graduate Thesis Defense

THE INFLUENCE OF RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP BEHAVIOR AND STRESS IN WESTERN COLORADO

2024-07-19

Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of the Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society

THE EFFECTS OF WILDLAND RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP BEHAVIOR IN WESTERN COLORADO

2024-02-03

Desert Bighorn Council 57th Meeting Poster Session

THE EFFECTS OF WILDLAND RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WESTERN COLORADO

2023-04-12

Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of the Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society

THE EFFECTS OF WILDLAND RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WESTERN COLORADO

2023-02-03

Youth Conservation Experience at the Wild Sheep Foundation Sheep Show

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MY PATH TO WILDLIFE BIOLOGY

2023-01-14

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Student Research in Progress Poster Session

DETERMINING THE EFFECTS OF RECREATION ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WESTERN COLORADO

2022-11-09

Bureau of Land Management Colorado Statewide Biologist Meeting

EFFECTS OF HUMAN RECREATION ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WESTERN COLORADO

2022-10-28

Desert Bighorn Council 56th Meeting

THE EFFECTS OF WILDLAND RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WESTERN COLORADO

2021-04-08

Virtual Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of the Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society

EFFECTS OF HUMAN RECREATION ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP (OVIS CANADENSIS NELSONI) IN WESTERN COLORADO

2021-02-05

USGS New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Annual Meeting

EFFECTS OF HUMAN RECREATION ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WESTERN COLORADO

2020-12-11

Certifications

CPR and First Aid

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

May 2024

Wilderness First Responder

NOLS WILDERNESS MEDICINE INSTITUTE

March 2021

All-Terrain Vehicle Training

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

October 2020

Flying in the Wire and Obstruction Environment and Crew Resource Management

UTILITIES AVIATION SPECIALISTS

August 2016

Hunter Safety

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

2008

Professional Affiliations

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

THE WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION (LIFE MEMBER)

NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

EASTERN CHAPTER OF THE WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION