Alice Stears

PhD Candidate · Department of Botany and Program in Ecology

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Education

University of Wyoming *Laramie, WY*

PhD, Ecology *September 2017-Present*

- Advisor: Dr. Daniel Laughlin
- Dissertation: "Trait-mediated plant demographic responses to environmental change"

Williams College *Williamstown, MA*

BA, Biology with Honors *September 2011-June 2015*

- Advisors: Dr. Luana Maroja and Dr. Joan Edwards
- Honors thesis: "The Effect of Local Climate Change on the Population Ecology and Genetic Landscape of the Arctic Disjunct Plant *Sagina nodosa* on Isle Royale, MI"

Professional Experience

2019-2020	**Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellow**, University of Wyoming
2017-2020	**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Life Program and Department of Botany, University of Wyoming
2016-2017	**Biologist Guide**, Wildlife Expeditions of Teton Science Schools, Jackson, WY
2015-2016	**Teacher Naturalist**, Montana Audubon Center, Billings, MT
2015	**Field Research Assistant, Plant Evolutionary Biology**, under Anne Marie Panetta, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Gothic, CO
2013-2015	**Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**, Biology Department, Williams College
2013	**Undergraduate Research Assistant, Forest Ecology**, under Dr. Hank Art, Biology Department, Williams College

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2020	**Women in Conservation Biology, Ecology, and Education Fellowship**, University of Wyoming Botany and Zoology & Physiology Departments
2020	**Dennis H. Knight Graduate Student Fellowship**, University of Wyoming Botany Department
2019	**College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Scholar Award**, University of Wyoming
2019-2020	**Graduate Research Fellowship**, Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium
2019	**Wyoming Native Plant Society Markow Grant**, Wyoming Native Plant Society
2019	**Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention**, National Science Foundation
2018-2019	**Program in Ecology Teaching Assistantship**, Program in Ecology, University of Wyoming
2018	**Ton Damman Award, International Edition, for best student poster at the International Association of Vegetation Science Symposium**, ESA Vegetation Section.
2018	**Student Travel Award**, International Association for Vegetation Science
2018	**Travel Award**, Department of Botany, University of Wyoming
2018, 2019	**HT Northen Summer Fellowship**, Department of Botany, University of Wyoming
2018	**Aven Nelson Summer Fellowship in Systematic Botany**, Department of Botany, University of Wyoming
2015	**Henry A. Dwight Class of 1829 Botanical Prize for excellence in Botany**, Williams College
2011	**Valedictorian of Graduating Class**, Billings Senior High School, Billings MT
2011	**National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist**,

Presentations

Contributed Presentations

Stears, A. 2020. Identifying plant traits that predict species-level drought tolerance in western grasslands. Oral Presentation: Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Virtual.

Stears, A. 2020. Trait-mediated plant demographic responses to environmental change. Oral Presentation: Botany Departmental Seminar, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Stears, A. 2019. Updating population models to improve conservation of the rare plant *Oenothera coloradensis*. Oral Presentation: Botany Departmental Seminar, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Stears, A. 2019. Identifying plant traits that predict species-level drought tolerance in western grasslands. Oral Presentation: Guild of Rocky Mountain Ecologists and Evolutionary Biologists, Gothic, CO.

Stears, A. 2019. Identifying plant traits that predict species-level drought tolerance in western grasslands. Oral Presentation: University of Wyoming Program in Ecology Annual Symposium, Laramie, WY.

Stears, A. 2018. Plants sit quietly and wait to be dug up!:Identifying plant traits that predict drought tolerance in Western Grasslands. Oral Presentation: Botany Departmental Seminar, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Stears, A, D. Blumenthal, P. Adler, K. Wilcox, J. Kray, T. Ocheltree, and D.C. Laughlin. 2018. Leaf osmotic potential affects survival rates in response to inter-annual climatic variation in shortgrass prairie. Poster presentation: International Association of Vegetation Scientists Symposium, Bozeman, MT.

Stears, A. 2014. Observing the Effects of Climate Change in an Arctic Plant: The Population Ecology and Landscape Genetics of Sagina nodosa in Isle Royale National Park. Departmental seminar: Biology Department, Williams College, Williamstown, MA.

Teaching Experience

Fall 2018; Fall 2020	**Vegetation Ecology**, Teaching Assistant
Spring 2018; Spring 2019	**Animal Biology**, Teaching Assistant
Fall 2017	**Plant and Fungal Biology**, Teaching Assistant
Spring and Fall 2014	**Field Botany and Plant Natural History**, Teaching Assistant
Spring 2013	**Intro Biology**, Teaching Assistant

Mentoring

2019-2020	**Yvan Somalyay**, Undergraduate Honors Student, University of Wyoming
2018	**Syndney Cannon**, Undergraduate Independent Study Student, University of Wyoming

Outreach & Professional Development

Service and Outreach

2018-2020	**Program in Ecology Student Organization**, Secretary (19-20; 20-21); Outreach Committee (18-19)	*University of Wyoming*

Professional Development

Scholarly Writing Techniques Workshop Series, 2020, A 4-part workshop series through the University of Wyoming Graduate Learning Initiative.

Spatial Data Science Using R, 2019, A three-day workshop at the University of Wyoming on using R statistical software to process and analyze GPS and remotely-sensed data.

NSF Grantsmanship Workshop, 2017, A two-day workshop at the University of Wyoming with former NSF program officer Saran Twombly providing insights and skills practice for the NSF grant-writing process

Professional Memberships

Ecological Society of America · International Association for Vegetation Science · Sigma Xi

Skills and Certifications

Proficient in R, LaTeX, Overleaf, GitHub, Microsoft Office applications
Wilderness First Responder Certification, NOLS (2018)
American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education Level 1 and 2 Certifications (2018, 2019)