

Education, certificates and test scores

- **The University of Arizona** Tucson, AZ
Ph.D. candidate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 2016-
- **Montana State University** Bozeman, MT
BSc Biology (highest honors; GPA: 4.0 upper division/graduate coursework) 2008 - 2014
- **IUCN CPSG Ex Situ Conservation Assessment Training** ConservationTraining.org
Certificate of Achievement 2023
- **IUCN Red List Assessor Training** ConservationTraining.org
Certificate of Achievement 2023
- **Key Biodiversity Areas Advanced Practitioner** ConservationTraining.org
Certificate of Completion with Distinction 2023
- **Planning for Conservation: Using the Conservation Standards** ConservationTraining.org
Certificate of Completion 2023
- **Johns Hopkins University** Coursera
Data Science Specialization (with honors) 2015
- **GRE**
167 Verbal (97th %ile), 168 Quantitative (95th %ile), 5.0 Writing (93rd %ile) 2014

Skills

- **Ecology and evolution:** ecosystem & climate modeling, population, community & landscape ecology, taxonomy, physiological ecology, conservation genetics, conservation ecology, conservation planning, trait ecology, phylogenetics
- **Outreach and education:** workshop assistant for Software Carpentry, author of series of educational apps in ecology (e.g. <https://mdpillet.shinyapps.io/LogisticModel>), instructor for lecture series on ecology in Montana, over 10 years of tutoring and teaching experience
- **Statistics:** theoretical and practical experience in topics ranging from spatial statistics to machine learning and Bayesian methods
- **Programming and IT:** R, Python, Matlab, Java/C++, web development, databases (SQL/XML), Git, Linux, working on clusters
- **Field techniques:** species identification and surveys, experience with common technology (e.g. GPS)
- **Design:** Adobe InDesign
- **Wide knowledge of supporting sciences:** GIS (R/ArcGIS/QGIS), biogeochemistry, physics, soil science, hydrology, remote sensing, physiology
- **Mathematics:** strong background in numerical analysis, dynamical systems, traditional calculus, algorithms, with an emphasis on the use of mathematical models in ecology
- **Languages:** English, Dutch, French, Spanish

Experience

Conservation Committee Chair for the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, Tucson, AZ	2024-
Member of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission	2024-
Member of the IUCN SSC Succulent Plant Illegal Trade Task Force	2024-
Cactus and Succulent Society of America Affiliate Representative	2024-
for the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, Tucson, AZ	
Program Officer for the IUCN SSC Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group	2023-
Researcher in the Department of Research, Conservation and Collections	2023-
Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ	
Conservation Committee Member of Cactus and Succulent Society of America	2023-
Field instructor for the Science Research Initiative at University of Utah	2023
Member of the IUCN SSC Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group	2022-
Owner of Prickly Prospects Cactus Nursery (ex-situ conservation nursery)	2021-
Instructor at University of Arizona	2020-2023
Nursery worker at Arid Lands Greenhouses	2019-2021
Researcher in Enquist Lab at University of Arizona	2017-
Researcher in Evans Lab at University of Arizona	2016-2018
Workshop assistant for Software Carpentry	2016
Research scientist in Poulter Ecosystem Dynamics Lab at Montana State University	2015-2016
Volunteer for Red Cross Disaster Action Team	2015-2016
Research scientist in Hansen Landscape Biodiversity Lab at Montana State University	2014
Volunteer greenhouse manager for succulent plants at Montana State Univ.	2014
University & private tutor in sciences	2012-
Researcher and crew chief at Museum of the Rockies Paleontology Department	2008-2014

Workshops

- **Planning Workshop for the Integrated Conservation of the Genus *Copiapoa*** Zoom
Participant and coauthor for species assessments 2022-2023
- **Integral Projection Modeling Workshop** Barcelona, Spain
Participant 2016
- **State-and-Transition Modeling Workshop** Fort Collins, CO
Participant 2014

Awards, Grants & Honors

San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society Legacy Project Award (conservation award) . . .	2024
William A. Calder III Memorial Scholarship (Ph.D.)	2023
College of Science Galileo Circle Scholarship (Ph.D.)	2023
Faculty Opinions - top 20 influential conservation papers of 2022	2023
College of Science Galileo Circle Scholarship (Ph.D.)	2022
William A. Calder III Memorial Scholarship (Ph.D.)	2022
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP; Ph.D.)	2017-2022
Graduate Access Fellowship (Ph.D.)	2016-2017
GPSC Travel Grant (Ph.D.)	2016
Presidential Scholarship (BSc)	2008-2014
Undergraduate Scholars Program (BSc)	2009-2010
Dean's & President's List (BSc): 6 times	2008-2014

Publications and reviews

- Goettsch, B., et al., 2025. **Plan de Acción para la Conservación Integrada del Género *Copiapoa***. Chile. 66 pp.
https://iucn-cssg.org/assets/copiapoa/copiapoa_action_plan_en.pdf.
- Villalobo-Lopez, A., Pena, C., Varas-Myrik, A., Pillet, M., Jahnsen, P., Pliscoff, P., Goettsch, B., Guerrero, P., 2024. **Effects of trade and poaching pressure on extinction risk for cacti in the Atacama Desert**. *Conservation Biology*. doi: 10.1111/cobi.14353.
- Pillet, M., 2024. **Het behoud van cactussen in een veranderende wereld - wat kunnen we doen?** *Succulenta*. 103(1), 13-17.
- Davis, T. and Pillet, M., 2023. **Don't tell me, show me: the importance of maintaining data in cultivated plants**. *Cactus and Succulent Journal*. doi: 10.2985/015.095.0313.
- Villalobo, A., Pena, C., Varas-Myrik, Goettsch, B., Pillet, M., Jahnsen, P., Pliscoff, P., Guerrero, P., 2023. **Impulsores antropogenicos y abioticos del aumento del riesgo de extinción de *Copiapoa* (Cactaceae)**. *Master's thesis, Universidad de Concepción, Chile*.
- Pillet, M., 2023. **Prickly prospects for cacti under climate change**. *TheScienceBreaker*. doi: 10.25250/thescbr.brk715.
- Pillet, M., 2022. **Prickly prospects for cacti under climate change**. *British Cactus and Succulent Society December 2022 eNews*.
- Pillet, M., Goettsch, B., Merow, C., Maitner, B., Feng, X., Roehrdanz, P., Enquist, B., 2022. **Elevated extinction risk of cacti under climate change**. *Nature Plants*. doi: 10.1038/s41477-022-01130-0.
- Feng, X., et al., 2022. **A review of the heterogeneous landscape of biodiversity databases: opportunities and challenges for a synthesized biodiversity knowledge base**. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*. doi: 10.1111/geb.13497.

- Schultz, E., Hulsmann, L., Pillet, M., Hartig, F., Breshears, D., Record, S., Shaw, J., DeRose, J., Zuidema, P., Evans, M., 2021. **Climate-driven, but dynamic and complex? A reconciliation of competing hypotheses for species' distributions.** *Ecology Letters*. doi:10.1111/ele.13902.
- Enquist, B., et al., 2019. **The commonness of rarity: Global and future distribution of rarity across land plants.** *Science Advances*. doi:10.1126/sciadv.aaz0414.
- Pillet, M., Joetzjer, E., Belmin, C., Chave, J., Ciais, P., Dourdain, A., Evans, M., Herault, B., Luyssaert, S., Poulter, B., 2018. **Disentangling competitive versus climatic effects on tropical forest mortality.** *Journal of Ecology*. doi:10.1111/1365-2745.12876.
- Joetzjer, E., Pillet, M., Ciais, P., Barbier, N., Chave, J., Schlund, M., Maignan, F., Barichivich, J., Luyssaert, S., Herault, B., von Poncet, F., Poulter, B., 2017. **Assimilating satellite-based canopy height within an ecosystem model to derive above ground forest biomass.** *Geophysical Research Letters*. doi:10.1002/2017GL074150.
- Hansen, A., Ireland, K., Legg, K., Keane, R., Barge, E., Jenkins, M., Pillet, M., 2016. **Complex challenges of maintaining whitebark pine in Greater Yellowstone under climate change: A call for innovative research, management, and policy approaches.** *Forests*. doi:10.3390/f7030054.
- **Reviewer for:** Acta Botanica Brasilica, American Journal of Botany, Journal of Arid Environments, Journal of Biogeography, Plant Ecology, PLOS ONE

Abstracts and posters

- Enquist, B., et al. **The commonness of rarity: Global and future distribution of rarity across land plants.** Abstract at *Ecological Society of America 2020 Annual Meeting*.
- Enquist, B., Merow, C., Hannah, L., et al. **Forecasting future global biodiversity: Predicting current and future global plant distributions, community structure, and ecosystem function.** Abstract at *American Geophysical Union 2019 Fall Meeting*.
- Schultz, E., Huelmann, L., Pillet, M., Breshears, D., Zuidema, P., Hartig, F., DeRose, J., Shaw, J., Evans, M. **Demographic range modeling reveals that climate and competition are insufficient to explain a species distribution.** Abstract at *Ecological Society of America 2019 Annual Meeting*.
- Evans, M., Huelmann, L., Pillet, M., Breshears, D., Hartig, F., Record, S., Shaw, J., Zuidema, P., DeRose, J., 2018. **A demographic perspective on the ecological niche and the geographic distribution: a range-wide analysis of climate and competition as factors limiting vital rates of *Pinus edulis*.** Abstract at *MtnClim 2018*.
- Pillet, M., DeRose, J., Record, S., Shaw, J., Evans, M., 2018. **Demographic range modeling reveals that climate is insufficient to explain species distributions.** Abstract at *Ecological Society of America 2018 Annual Meeting*.
- Poulter, B., Pederson, N., Ciais, P., Pillet, M., Joetzjer, E., Calle, L., Luyssaert, S., 2017. **Implementing forest age- and size-structured dynamics within Earth system models.** Abstract at *Ecological Society of America 2017 Annual Meeting*.

- Evans, M., DeRose, J., Arizpe, A., Aragon, J., Grey, A., Pillet, M., Shaw, J., Klesse, S., Dietze, M., 2017. **Assimilation of FIA tree-ring and remeasurement data to quantify multiple influences on tree growth - an analysis of *Pinus ponderosa* in northern Arizona.** Abstract at *2017 FIA Stakeholder Science Meeting*.
- Evans, M., DeRose, J., Arizpe, A., Aragon, J., Grey, A., Pillet, M., Shaw, J., Klesse, S., Dietze, M., 2017. **Assimilation of tree-ring and forest inventory data to understand the influences of climate, tree size, and stand density on tree growth - a regional analysis of *Pinus ponderosa* in northern Arizona.** Abstract at *Ecological Society of America 2017 Annual Meeting*.
- Poulter, B., Ballantyne, A., Bastos, A., Calle, L., Chatterjee, A., Canadell, P., Ciais, P., Frank, D., Ott, L., Pillet, M., Sitch, S., 2017. **Enabling teleconnection-based seasonal forecasts of global terrestrial carbon cycle dynamics.** Poster at *10th International Carbon Dioxide Conference*.
- Poulter, B., Ciais, P., Joetzjer, E., Luyssaert, S., Maignan, F., Pillet, M., 2015. **Reducing uncertainty for estimating forest carbon stocks and dynamics using integrated remote sensing, forest inventory and process-based modeling.** Poster at *American Geophysical Union 2015 Fall Meeting*.

Presentations and media

- **Conservation through propagation.** Presented for *Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Propagation Education Group*, November 2024.
- **Combating the illegal trade in cacti and succulents through stakeholder participation.** Presented for *IrisBG Coffee Chat*, November 2024.
- **The illegal trade in cacti from the Americas.** Presented for *A guide to monitoring the illegal plant trade on eBay*, September 2024.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Gates Cactus and Succulent Society*, July 2024.
- **Learning from cacti: a field course through southern Utah and northern Arizona.** Presented for *San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society*, May 2024.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society*, May 2024.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society*, April 2024.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society*, March 2024.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Austin Cactus and Xerophyte Society*, January 2024.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Fort Worth Cactus and Succulent Society*, January 2024.

- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society*, January 2024.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Central Texas Cactus and Succulent Society*, January 2024.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Desert Garden Club*, January 2024.
- **Climate Change Conversations: Common Sense Cactus Conservation in the 21st Century.** Presented for *Tucson Botanical Gardens*, December 2023.
- **Prickly Prospects for Cacti in the 21st Century.** Presented for *The University of Arizona Galileo Circle Scholars Celebration*, October 2023.
- **Assessing Climate Change Impacts on Cacti: Challenges and Opportunities.** Presented for *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southwest Region*, October 2023.
- **Assessing Climate Change Impacts on Cacti: Challenges and Opportunities.** Presented for *The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens*, September 2023.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Maricopa County Master Naturalists*, August 2023.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society*, July 2023.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society*, June 2023.
- **Common-sense cactus conservation in the 21st century.** Presented for *Cactus and Succulently Society of America*, May 2023.
- **Elevated extinction risk of cacti under climate change.** Presented for *International Cactaceae Academic Network*, September 2022.
- **Species distribution models for *Copiapoa* spp. under climate change.** Presented for *Planning Workshop for the Integrated Conservation of the Genus *Copiapoa**, August 2022.
- **Planning for Uncertainty: Conserving Cacti in a World of Change.** Presented for *Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society*, August 2022.
- **Prickly prospects for cacti under climate change.** Presented for *Arizona Senior Academy*, August 2022.
- **Elevated extinction risk of cacti under climate change.** Interviewed for various media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *CBS*, *ABC*, *NBC*, *Swedish Television*, *TRT World*, *Yale Climate Connections*, April 2022-.
- **Prickly prospects for cacti under climate change: An analysis of uncertainty in range forecasts.** Presented for *Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting*, August 2020.
- **Sowing Cacti: where Art and Science meet.** Presented for *Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society*, June 2018.
- **Prickly prospects for cacti under climate change.** Presented for *Tucson Chapter of Arizona Native Plant Society*, May 2018.

- **Prickly prospects for cacti under climate change.** Presented for *Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society*, May 2017.

References

- **Dr. Brian Enquist**, The University of Arizona and Santa Fe Institute: *benquist@arizona.edu*
- **Dr. Barbara Goettsch**, IUCN SSC Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group and The Biodiversity Consultancy: *csg.barbara@gmail.com*
- **Dr. Lucas Majure**, IUCN SSC Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group and University of Florida: *lmajure@floridamuseum.ufl.edu*
- **Tristan Davis**, University of Kansas: *minime8484@hotmail.com*