**Shannon Joslin**

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Dear Robert Grasso,

I am writing to enthusiastically apply for the Biologist (Series Grade GS-0401-09) position for the Department of the Interior National Park Service in Yosemite National Park. My current position as a Conservation Population Geneticist Graduate Student Researcher and the University of California, Davis has provided me valuable experience working with endangered fish populations in California and large historical datasets. This position in combination with my work as an Instructor for the Lab for Data Intensive Biology has afforded me the opportunity to have created dozens of tutorials on how to carry out biology on the computer. I am acutely aware of how to work on projects that work with large-scale, sensitive, messy or scattered wildlife data and how to create resources for others to use. I am particularly enthusiastic to work in Yosemite National Park, as the region’s rock and organisms are near and dear to my heart.

Together my thesis work, my position as an Instructor with the Lab for Data Intensive Biology, and my passion project of writing a *Yosemite Bouldering: A guidebook to bouldering in Yosemite Valley* have afforded me an extensive background in compiling and manipulating data, running data analytics, and creating tutorials for others. I believe that each one of these endeavors has afforded me skillsets which, together, make me an ideal candidate for your position.

In my research I used both big data from DNA sequencing with millions of data points and messy data with thousands of data points input by various field biologists over the course of 30 years to carry out my genetic analyses. I was the first graduate student to use big data in my lab and have taught myself countless software and multiple scripting languages to study the population genetics of Delta Smelt. As other members of my lab have started to acquire bigger datasets, I have given seminars and created scripts to assist in their analyses. In my work I used a combination of perl, Python, R and bash scripting to manipulate data and carry out my analyses.

My instructional positions working with the Lab for Data Intensive Biology sought (and seeks) to provide resources in the form of open-source tutorials freely and continually available through GitHub. The tutorials primarily focus around giving classically trained biologists the ability to work and engage in biology at the command line, which is currently not taught in formal college or graduate level curriculums.

Lastly, my passion project of writing a guidebook to bouldering in Yosemite Valley gave me experience in working with spatial data and transmitting information from spreadsheets to Adobe InDesign. I created detailed maps, researched and wrote about Yosemite’s park history, and included information on the ecology of the park.

Although most of my work is collaborative, and I believe collaboration is essential in scientific endeavors, I am a self-motivated worker. I have worked from home for over a year now and am accustomed to teleworking. I am a hardworking individual that deeply enjoys solving puzzles, simplifying complex processes and accurately transmitting information. I am independent, and I also work well as a team member or leader of projects. I believe my prior work shows that I have the skills for your position and demonstrates my ability to learn on the job, and love of the organisms of Yosemite, and it demonstrates that I am committed to continually pursuing high quality work.

I look forward to discussing my experience with you. At your request, I would be happy to provide you with additional materials and/or references. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shannon EK Joslin