

Steven Mitchell

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EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Science and Management (Expected June 2025)

Bren School of Environmental Science & Management – University of California, Santa Barbara

Specializations: Conservation Planning & Environmental Policy

Fellowships: Forest Sustainability Fellow, Climate Adaptation Fellow

Bachelor of Science in Wildlife (December 2015)

California Polytechnic University, Humboldt

Specializations: Conservation Biology & Applied Vertebrate Ecology

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

Master's Conservation Planning Practicum

Minimizing Bat Mortality at New Wind Energy Sites in Washington State

Performed geospatial analysis in R to identify low-conflict wind energy sites by assessing overlap with bat habitat. Informed environmentally responsible siting within regulatory compliance standards.

Master's Group Project

Integrating Climate Adaptation into Local Collaborative Forest Management (4/24–4/25)

Role: Project Manager | Client: The Nature Conservancy

Led a collaborative management team to develop solutions to climate adaptation barriers through policy analysis, stakeholder engagement, and negotiations with clients and public officials.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Wildlife Program Lead – Biological Science Technician (4/21–10/21, 4/22–9/22, & 4/23–8/23)

Mount Rainier National Park, Ashford, WA

- Averted shutdown of the wildlife program by stepping up amid leadership vacuum following senior staff injury; earned formal recognition, performance awards, and bonus pay for exceptional service.
- Assumed leadership of the park's wildlife program during a multi-year vacancy by directing budgets, permitting, data analysis, and policy to ensure program continuity and regulatory compliance.
- Authored Biological Assessments for ESA Section 7 consultations and contributed to Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements as part of the NEPA process.
- Enhanced efficiency by introducing modern tools for data collection, management, and reporting (Survey123, ArcGIS Collector, Access, ArcGIS Dashboard), resulting in under-budget deliverables.

SARS-CoV-2 in Wildlife Researcher – Wildlife Biologist (9/22–4/23)

USDA National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO

- Led and organized field studies to assess pathogen transmission risk among wildlife, zoo and domestic animals, and humans and develop methods to reduce or eliminate such transmission.
- Designed and authored IACUC and IBC protocols in support of wildlife disease research.
- Analyzed quantitative and spatial data for methods and results sections of manuscripts.

Field Coordinator – Wildlife Biologist (3/19–8/19 & 2/20–10/20)

Turnstone Environmental Consultants, Inc., Portland, OR

- Led simultaneous consulting projects to completion under budget, including transmission line projects for the Bonneville Power Administration.
- Hired, trained, and supervised 17 professional-level staff, set work priorities, and managed budgets.
- Negotiated project contracts with clients; developed proposals and cost estimates for bids.
- Coordinated and collaborated with resource managers in BLM, USFS, USFWS, and ODF.

Steven Mitchell

Page 2

ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

Human-Wildlife Conflict Specialist – Biological Science Technician (8/19–10/19)

Olympic National Park, Port Angeles, WA

Organized and led ground site receiving mountain goats from air-based capture team; coordinated veterinarian support; processed 300+ mountain goats for relocation to the Cascade Range.

Wildlife Crew Lead – Biological Science Technician (5/18–11/18)

USFS Sierra Nevada Carnivore Monitoring Program, Shaver Lake, CA

Led and organized field studies of carnivore species with game cameras and track plates; supervised 16 field biologists; exceeded survey quota of 125 surveys by accomplishing data collection at 143 sites

Lead Technician for Camera Study – Research Associate (3/18–5/18)

USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station & The Great Basin Institute, Shaver Lake, CA

Developed and tested the rigor of a novel camera survey protocol for denning female fishers, which was incorporated into limited operating period policies in NFS management plans.

Carnivore Technician – Biological Science Technician (Wildlife) (5/16–10/16 & 5/17–10/17)

USFS Sierra Nevada Carnivore Monitoring Program, Shaver Lake, CA

Conducted field studies of carnivore species with game cameras, track plates, and hair snares; identified camera trap photographs and tracks to species; safely navigated off-trail in rugged terrain

Bat Handler - Volunteer (1/16–5/16)

Migratory Bat Ecology Project – Redwood Sciences Lab, USFS, Arcata, CA

Handled and processed bats; anaesthetized bats for more invasive processing such as inserting PIT tags and accelerometers; deployed and retrieved mist nets; conducted bioacoustic monitoring

Carnivore Technician – AmeriCorps Intern (5/15–8/15)

USFS Sierra Nevada Carnivore Monitoring Program, Shaver Lake, CA

Conducted field studies of carnivore species with game cameras, track plates, and hair snares; identified camera trap photographs and tracks to species; safely navigated off-trail in rugged terrain

HIGHLIGHTED SKILLS

Regulatory Compliance: Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements as part of NEPA, Biological Assessments for ESA Section 7 consultations, project planning and permitting, and coordination with state and federal agencies

Project Management: Scope, schedule, and budget management; personnel hiring, training, and supervising; quality control and assurance

Field Experience: Wildlife surveys, terrain navigation, wilderness safety, and field map creation, and data collection methods (ArcGIS Collector, Survey123, Avenza Maps)

GIS: Geospatial statistics, map design and publication, StoryMaps, geodatabases, and more

Data Analysis/Conservation Planning: Population modeling, connectivity analysis (Circuitscape), habitat modeling (Maxent), spatial prioritization (Marxan), and more

CERTIFICATIONS

Chemical Immobilization and Euthanasia of Wildlife – WS National Training Academy (2022)

Wilderness First Aid - Mount Rainier National Park (2022)

Rabies Vaccination Titer (current through 4/2025)

ATV Rider Certification – ATV Safety Institute (2018)