

STEVEN MITCHELL

CONTACT INFORMATION

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[LinkedIn](#)

EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Science and Management

University of California, Santa Barbara
June 2025

Bachelor of Science, Wildlife

Humboldt State University
December 2015

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Writing & Communication

- Public speaking and outreach
- Stakeholder engagement
- Science communication
- Technical writing

Environmental Policy & Regulatory Compliance

- ESA Biological Assessments
- ESA critical habitat delineation
- NEPA documentation and Environmental Assessments
- Interagency coordination

Geospatial Tools

- ArcGIS Pro
- Geospatial analysis with R
- Google Earth Engine

Data Science & Statistical Analysis

- R programming
- Database construction (Access)
- Statistical data analysis
- Data visualizations

Environmental Modeling

- Restoration (prioritizR)
- Population ecology with R
- Connectivity (Circuitscape)
- Species distribution (Maxent)

SUMMARY

Wildlife biologist with over eight years of experience and expertise in project management, research design, quantitative ecology, environmental policy, regulatory compliance, and science communication. Extensive hands-on experience with a wide variety of taxa and ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest. Proven track record of designing and implementing research projects and conducting statistical data analyses for use in decision-making. Skilled at distilling and communicating complex science to non-scientific audiences.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Wildlife Research Contractor (10/2025-11/2025)

USGS WA Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, Seattle, WA, 40 hrs/week

- Carried out field studies of Cascade red fox movement ecology.
- Tracked foxes via wildlife cameras, snow tracking, and VHF telemetry captured and chemically immobilized foxes, affixed GPS collars, collected biological samples, reversed drugs, and supervised their release.
- Developed and fostered relationships with private landowners, Tribes, and state and federal agencies to encourage coexistence strategies.

Climate Adaptation Fellow (4/2024-6/2025)

The Nature Conservancy in Colorado, Remote, 35 hrs/week

Master's Project: Integrating Climate Adaptation into Local Collaborative Forest Management in Northern Colorado

- Developed a decision-support tool to facilitate climate change adaptation in forest management for use by the [Upper South Platte Partnership](#).
- Developed and fostered relationships with land managers, researchers, non-profit think tanks, and State and County officials through structured interviews and workshops to coordinate climate adaptation strategies.
- Customized, pilot-tested, and helped partners implement 64 environmental models and geospatial tools within a collaborative management framework.

Wildlife Biologist (9/2022-4/2023)

USDA National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO, 40 hrs/week

- Designed and led field studies to assess Covid-19 transmission risk among wildlife, zoo and domestic animals, and humans and support development of methods to reduce or eliminate such transmission.
- Developed and carried out statistically valid data collection, constructed Access databases for multiple data streams, and analyzed quantitative and spatial data in R to inform government policy-making.
- Authored IACUC and IBC protocols for wildlife research, government white-papers on research findings, and agency-wide policy memos.
- Captured, chemically immobilized, and drew blood from wildlife species.
- Conducted PCR analysis and antibody testing for disease detection in wildlife.

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FUNDING & AWARDS

Climate Adaptation Fellowship

2024

Awarded by The Nature Conservancy
Funded salary during master's project

Forest Sustainability Fellowship

2023

Awarded by the Bren School at UCSB
Funded tuition and other fees
associated with master's program

Outstanding Performance Awards

2021 & 2022

Awarded by Mt Rainier National Park
for interim leadership of the wildlife
program during a senior staff vacancy

On-The-Spot Award

2019

Awarded by Olympic National Park
for rescuing an injured hiker during
remote field work

On-The-Spot Award

2016

Awarded by the U.S. Forest Service
for rescuing an injured coworker
during remote field work

CERTIFICATIONS

First Aid/CPR

American Red Cross

Issued 9/2025

AIARE Level 1 Avalanche Training

AIARE

Issued 2/2022

ATV Rider

ATV Safety Institute

Issued 6/2018

PADI Open Water Diver

PADI

Issued 1/2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (continued)

Wildlife Lead (4/2021–10/2021, 4/2022–9/2022, & 4/2023–9/2023)

Mount Rainier National Park, Ashford, WA, 40 hrs/week

- Led and mentored 11 technicians through 3 field seasons of northern spotted owl monitoring, white-nose syndrome surveillance in bats, songbird banding, Cascade red fox scat surveys, and American pika monitoring.
- Authored Biological Assessments for ESA Section 7 consultations, Environmental Assessments as part of the NEPA process, government white papers on research findings, and technical reports for decision-making.
- Spearheaded the transition from traditional callback surveys to bioacoustic monitoring of northern spotted owls with Acoustic Recording Units (ARUs).
- Led bat captures for white-nose syndrome surveillance in colonies.

Wildlife Biologist (3/2019–8/2019 & 2/2020–10/2020)

Turnstone Environmental Consultants, Inc., Portland, OR, 45 hrs/week

- Led, mentored, and supervised 17 junior biologists and coordinated collaboration of senior biologists through 2 field seasons of surveys for northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, terrestrial mollusks, songbirds, bald eagles, and salmon as well as riparian restoration projects.
- Managed five Endangered Species Act consultation projects; directed budgets, hired staff, led field operations, and authored technical reports.
- Developed and fostered relationships with clients, private landowners, and government agencies in support of environmental regulatory compliance.

Hazardous Mammal Technician (8/2019–10/2019)

Olympic National Park, Port Angeles, WA, 40 hrs/week

- Managed human-wildlife conflict involving elk, mountain goats, and black bears via hazing, capture and relocation, and preventative planning.
- Served as Assistant Site Manager for the Mountain Goat Relocation project, helping coordinate the relocation of over 300 mountain goats.
- Handled and restrained mountain goats, administered injections and IV lines, collected biological samples, and treated minor injuries.
- Assisted as needed on all of the Park's wildlife projects including fisher reintroductions, northern spotted owl monitoring, American marten camera studies, cougar monitoring, and Olympic marmot surveys.

Wildlife Crew Lead (5/2016–10/2016, 5/2017–10/2017, & 3/2018–11/2018)

U. S. Forest Service Region 5, Shaver Lake, CA, 40 hrs/week

- Led a team of 16 technicians through 3 field seasons of carnivore monitoring with baited game cameras and track plates in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Tracked Pacific fishers and cougars via VHF telemetry to locate den sites.
- Designed and pilot-tested survey methods for denning Pacific fishers which was incorporated into limited operating period policies in management plans.