

# Ashley D. Evans

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

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## Education

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### MS Candidate, Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Ecology (anticipated completion 2023)

Las Cruces, NM

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

2020 - Present

- Minor in Geographic Information Systems and Technology
- Thesis: The Effects of Wildland Recreational Disturbance on Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis* spp) in Western Colorado
- GPA: 4.0

### BS Fisheries and Wildlife Science, BS Natural Resource Sustainability Studies

Paul Smiths, NY

PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE

2012 - 2016

- Minors in Geographic Information Systems and Chemistry
- GPA: 4.0, graduated summa cum laude

## Professional Experience

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### Graduate Research Assistant

Las Cruces, NM / Delta, CO

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

2020 - Present

- Created and defended a thesis research proposal for investigating the influence of human recreation on desert bighorn behavior, stress hormones, movements, and habitat selection
- Independently managed two-year research project with minimal supervision
- Collected, managed, and organized large ecological datasets using R, Microsoft Access, and Timelapse, including 3 million game camera photos, 220,000 GPS locations, 2,000 focal animal samples, 600 scan samples, and 250 fecal samples
- Currently conducting rigorous analysis of ecological and spatial datasets in R to predict recreational usage and influence of recreational timing and intensity on desert bighorn using generalized linear mixed models and spatial interpolation
- Project administration including developing research methods and protocols, planning capture priorities and preparing capture kits, designing data entry survey in Survey123 for efficient and accurate data collection, and prioritizing data collection efforts
- Interviewed, hired, trained, and supervised 9 project personnel
- Wrote grant proposals and secured over \$22,000 in supplemental research funds and scholarships
- Conducted behavioral observations using high powered optics in all weather conditions up to 2km away, collected hundreds of fecal pellet samples, installed and maintained over 70 game cameras to monitor recreation, and conducted necropsies on deceased bighorn to determine cause of death

### Desert Bighorn Sheep Scientific Aide

Bishop, CA

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

2016 - 2020

- Prioritized assigned tasks while working and camping year-round in the extreme environment presented by the Mojave Desert
- Backpacked and hiked in remote wilderness areas to deploy and retrieve game cameras, search for desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) sign, and locate animals using radio telemetry and spotting scope
- Collected demographic data by monitoring water sources, collecting fecal pellets, hiking transects, and using the double observer method from a helicopter
- Monitored bighorn survival with radio telemetry while flying for multiple hours in a Cessna 185
- Performed field necropsies to collect biological and disease samples and determine cause of mortality
- Inspected and monitored natural and artificial water sources and coordinated efforts for maintenance, repair, and water hauling with other government agencies and NGOs
- Assisted in the organization and execution of capture activities including leading processing crews in restraining and collaring the animal and collecting multiple biological samples including blood and physical measurements, all while continually monitoring vitals
- Educated the public about desert and Sierra Nevada bighorn including at the Sheep Show and with a delegation from Kazakhstan
- Assisted in the organization of and presented at desert bighorn hunter orientations and conducted hunter harvest check-outs
- Coauthored and created professional maps for official Department reports
- Organized, managed and analyzed large datasets using ArcGIS, Program R, and Microsoft Access

### Research Technician

Mojave Desert, CA

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

2018 - 2020

- Deployed and maintained game cameras at interstate culverts and overpasses during all seasons in the Mojave Desert while coordinating field duties with a remote supervisor

### Game Camera Photo Processor

Mojave Desert, CA

YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

2019

- Deployed and maintained game cameras during the summer at remote water sources in the Mojave Desert
- Processed nearly 4 TB of photographs, identifying bighorn group age and sex classifications and meticulously recorded data using Microsoft Access

## Fish Weir Operator (volunteer)

Grand Canyon National Park, AZ

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2019

- Worked independently to check and maintain a fish weir on Bright Angel Creek at the bottom of the Grand Canyon
- Educated the public about removal of nonnative fish species and promotion of native fish populations

## Raptor Banding Field Technician

Adirondack Mountains, NY

ADIRONDACK RAPTORS

2014 - 2016

- Deployed and monitored mistnets and removed, banded, and took physical measurements of Northern saw-whet owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) from sunset until early morning
- Trapped, measured, and banded red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) using bal chatri traps
- Conducted Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) nest searches in old-growth coniferous forest
- Identified perched and flying raptor species of northern New York
- Handled numerous captive hawk and owl species during educational presentations

## Black Bear Hair Snare Technician

Louisiana

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

2015

- Worked independently to build, repair, and bait Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*) hair snares and to collect hair samples using strict protocols
- Worked in hot, humid, and buggy conditions in flooded bottom-land hardwood forests
- Drove 4x4 ATVs and trucks through primitive, muddy trails, operated winches to free ATVs from mud, and performed general maintenance of machinery.

## Primate Rehabilitation Intern

Chiriquí, Panama

ALOUATTA SANCTUARY

2015

- Raised and rehabilitated orphaned infant mantled howler monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*)
- Conducted instantaneous focal animal and scan behavioral sampling daily using an ethogram
- Prepared food and provided enrichment for captive white-faced capuchin (*Cebus capucinus*) and Geoffroy's tamarins (*Saguinus geoffroyi*)
- Conducted bird and mammal surveys in primary rainforest, set up and retrieved camera traps, and identified wildlife species captured in photographs

## Reptile Field Technician

Sevilleta NWR, NM

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

2014

- Collected behavioral data in a controlled field experiment studying the effect of a perceived predator on the behavioral thermoregulation of spiny mountain lizards (*Sceloporus jarrovi*)
- Conducted general husbandry and handling of lizards, removed vegetation from study area, and constructed and maintained a field site
- Conducted experimental trials and recorded lizard responses using strict protocols in summer in the Chihuahuan Desert

## Publications

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- Glass, D. M., P. R. Prentice, A. D. Evans, and O. J. Schmitz. 2022. Local differences in maximum temperature determine water use among desert bighorn sheep populations. *Journal of Wildlife Management* e22313. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.22313>
- Prentice, P., R. Ianniello, A. Evans, L. Harrison, and T. Stephenson. 2020. Desert Bighorn Sheep Status Report November 2016 to October 2019. Official Report by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (Non-peer-reviewed)
- Prentice, P., A. Evans, D. Glass, R. Ianniello, and T. Stephenson. 2018. Desert Bighorn Sheep Status Report November 2013 to October 2016. Official Report by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (Non-peer-reviewed)

## Grants & Scholarships

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Total Awarded: \$22,750

### New Mexico State University

\$6,250

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE ASSISTANT AWARD

2022

### Wild Sheep Foundation

\$5,000

LIFE MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP

2022

### T&E Inc.

\$3,000

CONSERVATION GRANT

2022

- Grant Title: The Effects of Wildland Recreational Disturbance on Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) in Western Colorado

### Desert Bighorn Council

\$5,000

CHARLES HANSEN, RALPH WELLES, ROBERT CAMPBELL, AND DICK WEAVER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

2021

- Grant Title: The Effect of Wildland Recreational Disturbance on Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) in Western Colorado

<b>T&amp;E Inc.</b>	\$3,000
CONSERVATION GRANT	2021
• Grant Title: Effects of Human Recreation on Desert Bighorn Sheep ( <i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i> ) in Western Colorado	
<b>The Wildlife Society - New Mexico Chapter</b>	\$500
BIODIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP	2021

## Conference Presentations

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<b>The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Student Research in Progress Poster Session</b>	
DETERMINING THE EFFECTS OF RECREATION ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WESTERN COLORADO	2022-11-01
<b>Bureau of Land Management Colorado Statewide Biologist Meeting</b>	
EFFECTS OF HUMAN RECREATION ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WESTERN COLORADO	2022-10-01
<b>Desert Bighorn Council 56th Meeting</b>	
THE EFFECTS OF WILDLAND RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WESTERN COLORADO	2021-04-01
<b>Virtual Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of the Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society</b>	
EFFECTS OF HUMAN RECREATION ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP ( <i>OVIS CANADENSIS NELSONI</i> ) IN WESTERN COLORADO	2021-02-01
<b>USGS New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Annual Meeting</b>	
EFFECTS OF HUMAN RECREATION ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WESTERN COLORADO	2020-12-01

## Certifications

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<b>Wilderness First Responder</b>	
NOLS WILDERNESS MEDICINE INSTITUTE	March 2021
<b>All-Terrain Vehicle Training</b>	
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY	October 2020
<b>Flying in the Wire and Obstruction Environment and Crew Resource Management</b>	
UTILITIES AVIATION SPECIALISTS	August 2016
<b>Hunter Safety</b>	
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION	2008

## Professional Affiliations

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THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
THE WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION (LIFE MEMBER)

## References

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Available upon request