



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Southwest Region
2015 Student Wrap-Up Workshop



The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.





Southwest Region Brief History

The Southwest Region (Region) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) encompasses Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma and works with a variety of partners, federal agencies, communities, tribal governments, conservation groups, business interests, landowners and concerned citizens to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitat.

The distinctive landscapes of the Southwest Region provide habitat for a wide variety of remarkable native plant and animal species, including 150 species that are protected under the Endangered Species Act. In Arizona, environments range from lowland deserts to scenic mountain peaks. New Mexico's vistas intertwine with ancient cultural landscapes accommodating many species sacred to Native Americans. From the gulf coast beaches to the plains of the panhandle, Texas is home to the whooping crane, the Kemps Ridley sea turtle, and the Lesser prairie-chicken. And Oklahoma's expansive landscapes include species such as elk and bison that represent the historic character of the West. Weaving through all of the Region's landscapes are hundreds of species of migratory birds.



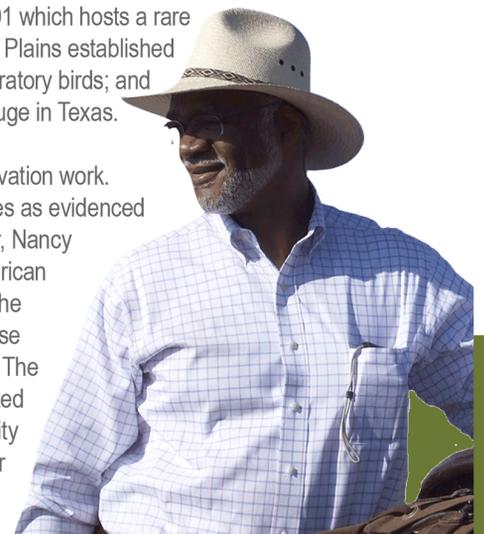
In the early history of the region, Father Eusebio Kino, a Jesuit priest spent the last 24 years of his life in the area exploring the San Bernardino Springs, now the Southwest Region's San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge (SBNWR). John Slaughter, rancher, Tombstone sheriff, and member of the Arizona House of Representatives 24th Legislature once owned all of what is now SBNWR, all adjacent lands and named these lands Slaughter Ranch. In the 1870s through 1880s, the Apache leader Geronimo used the lands to cross back and forth between Mexico and the United States and Colonel Theodore Roosevelt stayed at the Slaughter Ranch briefly during 1897 while recruiting soldiers for the pending war with Spain. In Oklahoma, Chief Quanah Parker, famous Comanche Chief, lived in the Wichita Mountains area when it was still a reservation and helped lobby Congress to get buffalo reintroduced and the Wichita Mountains lands set aside and protected.



Presently, the Region supports 8 National Fish Hatcheries, 1 Fish Health Center, 4 Fishery and Wildlife Conservation Offices, 7 Ecological Services Field Offices, 18 Law Enforcement Offices, 4 Border Inspection Stations, 2 Law Enforcement Designated Ports of Entry, 5 Joint Ventures that conserve and improve migratory bird habitat across the Southwest, and 47 National Wildlife Refuges. Of the 47 National Wildlife Refuges in this Region, three are listed as the oldest in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Those three are Wichita Mountains established in 1901 which hosts a rare piece of the past - a remnant mixed grass prairie; Salt Plains established in 1930 which was used as a breeding ground for migratory birds; and Muleshoe established in 1935 which is the oldest Refuge in Texas.



Over 900 dedicated professionals achieve our conservation work. We champion diversity in our employees and new hires as evidenced by FWS's support of the first female Regional Director, Nancy Kaufman from 1995 to 2001, and the first African American Regional Director, Dr. Benjamin Tuggle from 2005 to the present. The Southwest Region also employs a diverse student base in various career and educational fields. The student employment program is a way to attract talented students to work with the Service and it's an opportunity for students to continue their education and apply their academic studies to on-the-job experiences.



Our future, and that of the natural resources we care so much about, depends on us. I know I can count on you to step forward and help lead us to the successes we can only achieve by working together.
-- Dr. Benjamin Tuggle

Career, Internship, and Student Opportunities

Help Us Conserve the Nature of America

From the desert southwest to the prairies, our national wildlife refuges, fish hatcheries, wildlife management areas, ecological services field offices, and law enforcement offices offer opportunities for you to shape your future while working for conservation. Whether still enrolled in school or a recent graduate, the Southwest Region provides a variety of training and employment opportunities.



Pathways Program for Students & Recent Graduates

FWS appoints most of its interns through two Pathways Program components:

- 1) The Internship Program which targets current students enrolled in high school, or college or technical school, at least half time); and
- 2) The Recent Graduates Program which targets individuals who apply within two years of graduation (this is extended for veterans).

Collectively these programs are geared to give current students and recent graduates practical hands-on job experiences that can eventually lead to established careers within government service. For more information on pathways, visit www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads

FWS Internship Positions

FWS internships provide young people with a rich experience from which to continue further education and launch professional careers. Many of the jobs involve work in wildlife or visitor service related fields that include:

- monitoring and assessing threatened/ endangered species and habitats,
- conducting visitor service programs,
- general maintenance and management, or cultural/historical resource management.

Visit USAJOBS at www.usajobs.gov, or YouthGO.gov at www.youthgo.gov

Directorate Fellows Program (DFP)

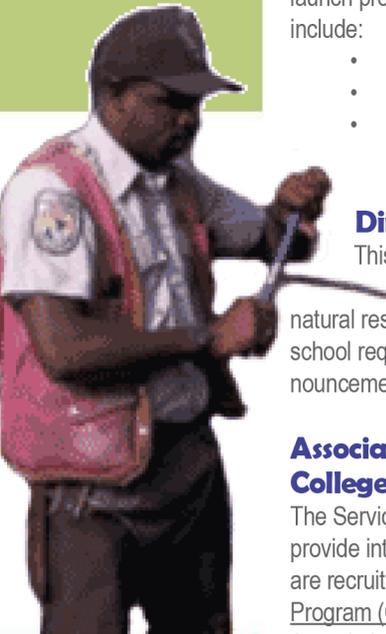
This program is designed to provide fellowship opportunities for undergraduate (rising seniors) and graduate students to participate in 11 week scientifically rigorous projects in biological science/ natural resource management or related fields. Candidates who complete this internship and school requirements may be eligible for a direct appointment with the Service. Project announcements are available in late fall. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/workforwildlife/

Associated Partner Internship Hires (Targeted for College Students)

The Service partners with many state conservation and non-government organizations to provide intern opportunities. These positions are similar to general internships, but interns are recruited and hired by Service partners. The Career Discovery CDIP Interns Internship Program (CDIP) is coordinated through our partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). It is designed to introduce culturally and ethnically diverse college students to conservation careers through hands on experience. These partnerships help FWS in promoting diversity and inclusion of its applicant pools for conservation jobs.

I urge you to use this opportunity to share and to grow, to teach and to learn. And I invite you to join me as we step across the threshold to meet these new challenges and lead the way in conservation.

-- Dr. Benjamin Tuggle





Career, Internship, and Student Opportunities cont'd.

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

YCC is a summer employment program for young people ages 15-18. Students work and learn as a team while engaged in environmental stewardship experiences. The YCC focuses on: youth development, natural resource stewardship and conservation, creating positive community involvement and career exploration. Programs are typically 8 weeks long from June through August. Participants gain a variety of experiences from biological monitoring to facilities maintenance and visitor services. To request info on YCC opportunities, contact the FWS regional office, wildlife refuge or fish hatchery nearest you.



Volunteer Positions

A great way to gain experience in the conservation field and to help you decide upon your career is to volunteer at a national wildlife refuge, fish hatchery, and other FWS offices. Volunteer positions are unpaid, but volunteers receive considerable benefits such as learning valuable technical skills and making professional contacts, while working in some of America's most beautiful landscapes. For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact the volunteer coordinator at a wildlife refuge or fish hatchery nearest you or check out www.fws.gov/volunteers/.

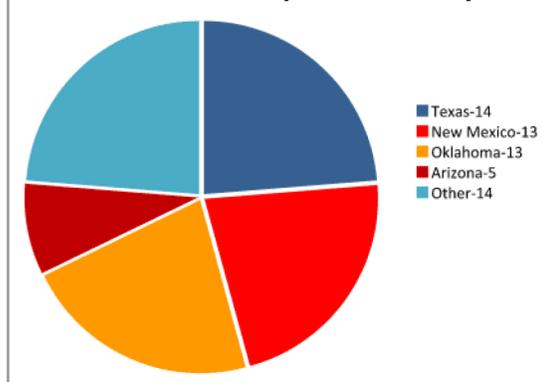
For information on all FWS opportunities, visit www.fws.gov/humancapital/

Engaging the next generation is a critically important strategy for achieving the Southwest Region and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) conservation mission. Building a sustained conservation constituency requires connecting with the ever-growing youth population to ensure that Americans care about conservation. The Southwest Region is engaged in multiple efforts in various programs to align youth from around our nation with region and Service priorities, increase our relevancy, and continue our long and rich tradition of engaging the next generation.

Recruiting

Recruiting efforts in Southwest Region have historically centered on universities with strong biology and wildlife programs, including Oklahoma State, New Mexico State, Texas A&M and the University of Arizona. Students hired in the last 10 years have actually come from over 20 different colleges in over 10 different states, including Langston University, a historically black college, with which we have had a strong relationship for almost 10 years.

Student Recruits by State last 10 years



Recruiting efforts have included classroom presentations, after hours programs, and an association with colleges Wildlife and Natural Resource clubs and organizations, and an ongoing connection with university faculty and programs. Southwest Region professionals are often asked to present in the classroom to introductory and graduate classes to talk about conservation issues that confront our region and the world.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southwest Region strives for a workforce that reflects the cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity of the Nation, including people with disabilities.

-- Dr. Benjamin Tuggle

One plus one never equals three – except in the world of partnerships. When people work together to accomplish what they cannot do alone, this equation makes sense.

-- Dr. Benjamin Tuggle

Youth in the Great Outdoors Partners

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.” The Service’s ability to achieve this mission depends on partnerships. Throughout its storied history, the agency has been committed to a collaborative approach to conservation. Our strategy is to empower Americans to become citizen conservationists. The more the Service can empower people as stewards of the land, the more effective we can be in our conservation mission.

The FWS works with other Department of the Interior bureaus, other Federal government agencies, and non-governmental entities and individuals to build a partnership-based approach to stewardship. Partnerships help us accomplish common goals because they:

- Are part of our culture.
- Combine individual strengths to accomplish missions.
- Foster relationships, common goals and collaboration.
- Build constituencies and broad-based community support.
- Leverage resources to meet challenges and improve opportunities.

The Southwest Region of FWS uses partners to enhance and support our workforce and goals. Annually hundreds of young people are employed in erosion control, fire prevention, invasive species eradication, educational programming, support of our YCC youth programming, and many other activities. These opportunities can serve as a first-step to part-time and fulltime opportunities with FWS, and other **conservation programs**. Explore <https://youthgo.gov/partner> to find examples of our partner organizations that might offer exciting opportunities as you build your resumes and your careers.

We must strive to improve, become more efficient, and adapt to an ever changing landscape if we are to continue to set the pace for conservation.

Our future, and that of the natural resources we care so much about, depends on us.

-- Dr. Benjamin Tuggle





How will we make the hard conservation choices that will be required as our resources become ever more scarce? How will we motivate, diversify and challenge our workforce to deliver our conservation mission?

-- Dr. Benjamin Tuggle

Program Overview and Purpose

The Secretary of the Interior's Youth in the Great Outdoors initiative continues to be a high priority for reconnecting young people from all walks of life with our natural resources and building pathways to careers in resource stewardship. The Southwest Region's Student Workshop is for students work in summer internship through Pathways Permanent and Temporary, DFP, CDIP and other student programs. The goals of the workshop are for all Pathways interns to: 1) Celebrate a successful summer internship; 2) Learn about different FWS programs and career paths; 3) Share their experiences as interns; 4) Network with regional office staff and leadership.

We hope this program continues our efforts in the FWS, Southwest Region to create the next generation of conservation leaders. We aim to provide meaningful work opportunities for young people so that they have a positive experience that directly contributes to conservation and that has a lasting impact on our Nation. Here are some of our great future land stewards!

2015 Student Participants

- 1)) Amanda Anderson, Middle Rio Grande Urban Youth Corps, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
- 2) Amber Clyde, Middle Rio Grande Youth Corps, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
- 3) Rumour LaJeunesse, Middle Rio Grande Urban Youth Corps, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
- 4) Cassondra Walker, DFP, Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge, Graduate Student, Oklahoma State University
- 5) Aaron Cajero, Pathways, Washita National Wildlife Refuge, Undergraduate Student, New Mexico State University
- 6) Mark Cancellare, DFP, Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, Graduate Student, West Texas A&M University
- 7) Kevin Castillo, Pathways, White River National Wildlife Refuge, Undergraduate Student, New Mexico State University "Apache Trout Restoration Experience"
- 8) Morgan Brizendine, DFP, Mora National Fish Hatchery, Graduate Student, University of Arizona in Tucson "My Fishy Journey Continues"
- 9) Justin Crow, DFP, Uvalde National Fish Hatchery, Graduate Student, Texas State University "An Investigation of Captive Reproduction Methods in the Comanche Springs Pupfish *Cyprinodon elegans*".
- 10) Daniel Gallegos, Pathways, Mora National Fish Hatchery, Undergraduate Student, Eastern New Mexico University "Summer Leads to a Career"
- 11) Daniel (Dan) Jackson, Pathways, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Undergraduate Student, Texas A&M Galveston
- 12) Mariah Oeser, Pathways, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, Undergraduate Student, University of New Mexico
- 13) Brianna Thorson, Pathways, Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, Undergraduate Student, Northern Arizona University
- 14) Erica Thomas, Pathways, Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Undergraduate Student, West Texas A&M University
- 15) Jesse Trujillo, Pathways, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Undergraduate Student, Eastern New Mexico University
- 16) Roy Ulibarri, Pathways, Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, Graduate Student, University of Arizona "My Time with the Service"
- 17) Rueben Mendoza, Pathways, Uvalde National Fish Hatchery, Undergraduate Student, University of Montana "Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Project"

*Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead
where there is no path and leave a trail.*

– Muriel Strode

Workshop Agenda

(All times are approximate)

When

Tuesday, August 11 at 1:00pm to Wednesday Aug 12th at 4:30pm (Tues & Thurs travel days)

Location

Southwest Regional Office, Albuquerque, NM (8th floor conference room location)

500 Gold Avenue, SW, between 5th and 6th Streets

Tuesday, August 11

- 1:00pm Travel – participants arrive by 1:00pm; (*Meeting in 8th Floor Conference Room*)
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm Icebreaker and Student Introductions (*Sharon Fuller-Barnes, Gary Hutchison*)
- 2:00pm – 2:45pm Welcome & Opening Remarks (*Regional Director/Deputy Regional Director*)

- 2:45pm – 3:00pm Break

- 3:00pm – 3:45pm FWS Career Paths and Student Employment Programs (*Sharon Fuller-Barnes*)
- 3:45pm – 4:15pm Recap and Overview of Next Day Activities (*Gary Hutchinson*)

Wednesday, August 12

- 8:00am – 8:15am Reflections and Questions; Meet in 8th Floor Conference Room (*Kary Allen*)
- 8:15am – 9:30am Student Presentations (Sharon Fuller-Barnes – Attending students will present summary of their summer experience using presentation format of choice. Allow 5mins. per student).

- 9:30am – 9:45am Break

- 9:45am – 10:15am Student Presentations (continued)
- 10:15am – 11:30pm Succeeding in Your Early Career and Relationship with FWS (*Panel Discussion
Monica Kimbrough, Joaquin Baca, Stacey Garcia, Jennifer Owen-White,
Melissa Mata*)

- 11:30am – 12:30pm Lunch (Pizza Sponsored by RDT- 4th Floor Conference Room)

- 12:30pm – 1:30pm Resume Writing for Federal Employment (*Monica Salazar*)
- 1:30pm – 1:45pm Student Photo (*External Affairs*)
- 1:45pm – 2:45pm Ice Cream Social
(Sponsored by RDT-
4th Floor Conference Room)
- 2:45pm – 3:15pm Diversity and Inclusion Message
(*Kary Allen*)
- 3:15pm – 3:30pm Evaluations
- 3:30pm – 4:00pm Closing Remarks
(*Regional Director/
Deputy Regional Director*)

Thursday, Aug 13

Travel Day SAFE TRAVELS!!!

*The dictionary
is the only place
where success
comes before
work.*





2015 Student Biographies

Hello, my name is Amanda Anderson and I am from Bosque Farms, New Mexico. I just completed high school at Valencia High and am about to start my first semester at the University of New Mexico. I am just taking classes to get my basics out of the way but would eventually like to transfer to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado to study Environmental Engineering. This summer I have been working for the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps as part of a special Middle Rio Grande Urban Youth Corps team. We have been doing a lot of trail maintenance, erosion control, and closing of social trails like you would expect from a typical youth corps. We have also been leading environmental education programs, building pollinator gardens and helping to prepare a new South Valley visitor center which is not so typical of a youth corps. Through this job I have been able to work with National Park Service, US Forest Service, the Isleta Pueblo and US Fish and Wildlife Service. My favorite thing about my summer job is being able to work outside. During the school year I will continue to volunteer with Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and I hope that I can be involved in many more opportunities to help me get outside and learn about the environment and careers.



My name is Amber Clyde and I am a 20 year old female. I am full Native American and I'm from the Navajo tribe. I was born in Shiprock, New Mexico and raised in a little community named Sheepsprings, New Mexico. I was raised by many different relatives and I learned a variety of things from each of them. I consider myself a nice, introverted and respectful person because of those who raised me. I started at Del Norte High School as a Freshman. It was remarkable, I was learning more advance things than I was at my old school on the Navajo Reservation. I stayed at Del Norte for 3 years and at the age of 17 I transferred to Bernalillo High School and graduated in May 2014. This summer I am working for Rocky Mountain Youth Corps as part of the Middle Rio Grande Urban Youth Corps program. My favorite thing about the program is how we get to work as a team and do good work for the environment and our community. I have taken some classes at Central New Mexico Community College and would like to continue this coming semester. I haven't yet figured out what I want to study but the more I can explore college classes and in the field experience, the better I will be able to decide where I am headed.



Greetings! My name is Rumour LaJeunesse. This summer I was a member of the Middle Rio Grande Urban Conservation Corps through a partnership with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. I graduated high school in May 2015 and will be attending the University of New Mexico this fall. I applied for a position with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in hopes of gaining life skills and to connect more with the outdoors. My family isn't really the outdoorsy type, but I enjoy it. I wasn't really sure what I wanted to go to school for but working as a Middle Rio Grande Urban Conservation Corps member has helped me discover a few things about myself - I am way more passionate about the environment than I thought and I would love to inform people about how important it is that we conserve our landscapes and help foster a kind and loving attitude towards our earth.

My name is Cassondra Walker and I am a PhD student at Oklahoma State University where I use remote sensing, specifically LiDAR, to study vegetation structure and how that influences the distribution of Bell's Vireos across the Great Plains. I am a DFP intern at Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge where I have been analyzing 20 years of MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) data and attempting to link trends in demographic data to habitat characteristics. After high school I spent 9 years in the Army and traveled to multiple countries where I became fascinated by geographical variation in wildlife distributions and landscape patterns. I love my research and the field work that goes with it and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appeals to me as a career choice because I can take the things that I am passionate about and use them to make a difference.



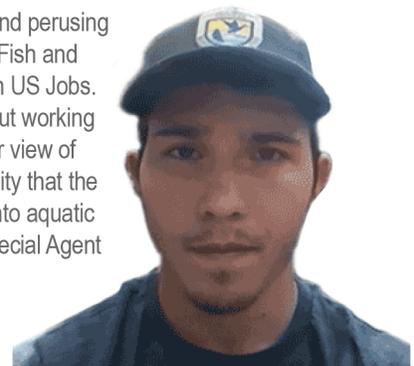


Hello! My name is Aaron Cajero Jr. and I attend school at New Mexico State University and will graduate in December 2015 with a degree in Wildlife. I am a Pathways at Washita NWR and am very fortunate to be a part of the Pathways program. I have gained many experiences while working at different wildlife refuges across the Southwest Region. This program also gave me the opportunity to experience new people and learn how these different refuges operate. My interest in nature and the environment comes from being raised on the Jemez Pueblo Reservation, where all of our natural resources are sacred to our people and our culture. Having this connection to the land really inspired me to continue my education in this field. Through this program I am learning skills that will allow me to excel in my future career.

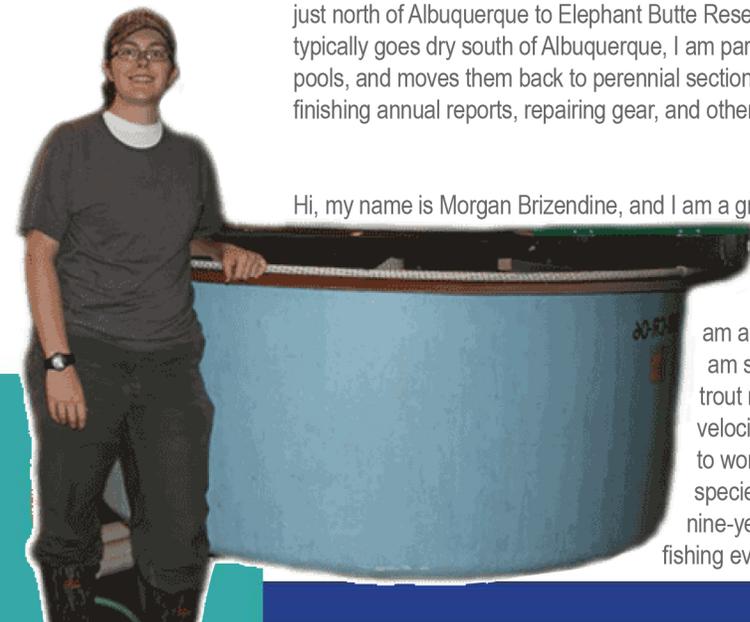


Hello! My name is Mark Cancellare and I attend school at West Texas A&M University. I will be graduating in May 2016 with a Master's degree in Biology. I am a DFP at Muleshoe NWR, and I have been studying the effects of land use on the lesser prairie-chicken. My interest in conservation and wildlife management really blossomed after receiving my bachelor's degree in Biology from Texas State University. I worked on several wildlife research projects before deciding to return to school to get my master's degree. The Directorate Fellowship Program has been an amazing experience in which I have learned as much about the US Fish and Wildlife Service and conservation as I have about myself. I am eager to take the next step into the US Fish and Wildlife Service!

Hello! My name is Kevin Castillo and I am currently a student at New Mexico State University and pursuing a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology. I am a pathways intern in White River, AZ for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working on Apache trout recovery projects. I found this job opportunity through US Jobs. I have had a positive experience working for the USFWS. In general, I'm very enthusiastic about working outdoors and with wildlife. This program has allowed me to gain new experience and a broader view of jobs that I can apply my degree to within the USFWS. I'm very appreciative of the job opportunity that the USFWS has given me. I have learned to appreciate and understand the hard work that goes into aquatic species conservation and management. I ultimately would like to work for the USFWS as a Special Agent or as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist.

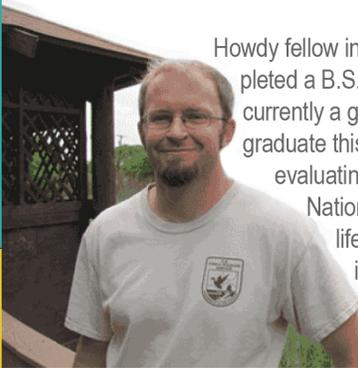


Hello, my name is Tristan Austring. I am attending the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque for a bachelor's degree in biology, with a minor in statistics. I usually attend half-time so I can continue to work during the school year. I work at the New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in Albuquerque. At my office, we focus on conservation and monitoring programs for the threatened and endangered fishes of New Mexico. My main duties involve the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow, which only occurs from just north of Albuquerque to Elephant Butte Reservoir. During the summer months when the Rio Grande typically goes dry south of Albuquerque, I am part of the crew that rescues the minnows out of isolated pools, and moves them back to perennial sections. During the school year I work as able, and help with finishing annual reports, repairing gear, and other field work.

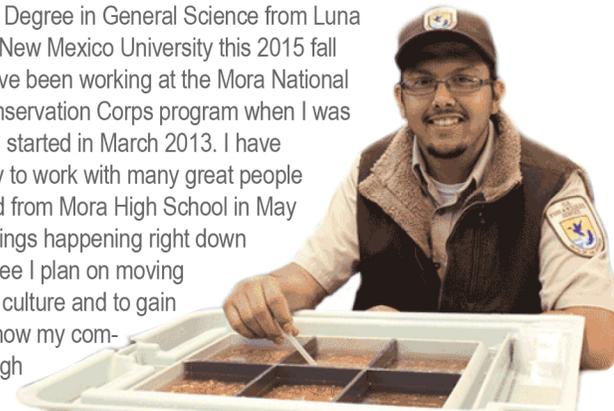


Hi, my name is Morgan Brizendine, and I am a graduate student at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. I will be graduating in December 2015 with a master's degree in Natural Resources and a concentration in Fisheries Conservation and Management. I am a DFP at Mora National Fish Hatchery. For my project, I am studying the physical performance and condition of Gila trout raised in race ways and in circular tanks with either high velocity or natural media. This experience has allowed me to work in a beautiful area of New Mexico and add another species to my fish life list. I wish I could go back and tell my nine-year-old self that when you grow up, you really can go fishing every day.

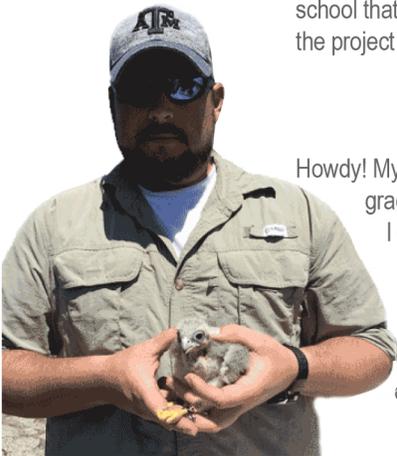
Howdy fellow interns! My name is Justin Crow and I hail from the magnificent Austin, Texas, where I recently completed a B.S. in Marine and Freshwater Biology from The University of Texas at Austin (Hook'em Horns!). I am currently a graduate student at Texas State University working on a Masters of Science in Biology, and I hope to graduate this fall. However, this summer I had the amazing opportunity to conduct a DFP project that involved evaluating the efficacy of several captive reproduction methods in an endangered pupfish held at the Uvalde National Fish Hatchery. My entire experience here this summer, as well as with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a whole, has been extraordinary. This experience has aided both my professional and intellectual development. I am thrilled to be working for an organization that understands the importance of a healthy environment and works daily to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants for the benefit of all.



Hello! My name is Daniel Gallegos, I just graduated with my Associates Degree in General Science from Luna Community College in Las Vegas, NM. I will be transferring to Eastern New Mexico University this 2015 fall semester to pursue my Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife and fisheries. I have been working at the Mora National Fish Hatchery (NFH) since June 4, 2012 and started with the Youth Conservation Corps program when I was eighteen years old. I am currently on a Pathways NTE program, which I started in March 2013. I have gained great experience, knowledge, and also have had the opportunity to work with many great people while working at the Mora NFH. I was raised in Mora NM and graduated from Mora High School in May 2012. Growing up in Mora, I never knew that there were so many big things happening right down the road here at the hatchery. After I graduate with my Bachelor's Degree I plan on moving around and working at different facilities to gain more knowledge in fish culture and to gain a better understanding of the overall mission of the Service. I want to show my community that even though I was an eighteen year old kid coming out of high school that someday I would succeed and fulfill my dream of becoming the project leader at the Mora National Fish hatchery.



Howdy! My name is Daniel "Dan" Jackson and I am currently attending school at Texas A&M University in Galveston and will be graduating fall 2016 with a degree in Ocean and Coastal Resources. I am a Visitor Services Pathways intern at Aransas NWR. I grew up outdoors, from Louisiana to Washington state all the way down to southern California and everywhere in between. When the opportunity to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service arose, I knew that I needed to take a chance to keep my outdoor lifestyle going. This summer I gained great respect and knowledge of how to interact with the public with ease and comfort. It make me happy to see a kids eyes light up as I told them of the refuge's animals, bugs and plants and how they interact in nature, or even the amazement of adults as they learned something new. I feel that I am making a difference in people's lives.



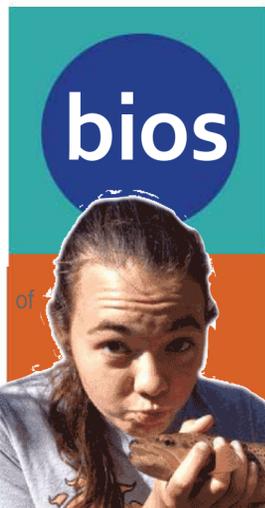
Hi, my name is Mariah Oeser. I returned to school after serving in the US Air Force. and have since been focused on gaining an education in a subject I have found a passion for. I am currently completing a BS in Biology with a Minor in Psychology through the Univ of New Mexico, but will be moving to south Georgia in August. I will attend Valdosta State Univ as a transient student to finish up the few courses I need to graduate in either Spring of Fall of 2016 with the intent of starting a graduate program the following semester. This is my first summer with the Pathways program and I am stationed at the NM Ecological Services Field Office in Albuquerque. My supervisor has made a great effort to ensure I get a broad range of experiences this summer from fisheries to urban and traditional refuges and more. I appreciate learning about each and seeing how it all fits together. Ultimately, I hope the education and experience I am gaining will lead to a career in support of conservation biology.



We want to stimulate your minds and hopefully ignite your creativity, to get you thinking more about your role as conservationists. Your perspective allows the priority conservation work to spring to the forefront. That is an investment in the future of conservation.

-- Dr. Benjamin Tuggle

Hi! My name is Brianna Thorson. I go to school at Northern Arizona University and will be graduating spring 2017. I'm graduating with my degree in Biology with a specialization in conservation biology and wildlife and Ecology management. I am a pathways intern in Pinetop, AZ. I come from a family who has always been interested in helping the environment. So this internship jumped out at me as a way to do my part to help. This internship has helped me gain the experience I need to go further in my career. My desire to help the environment has only increased with this position.



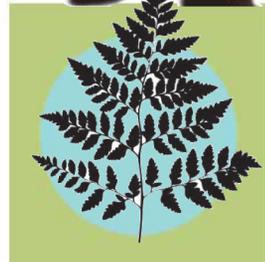
Hello, my name is Erica Thomas. I attend West Texas A&M University in Canyon, TX and will be graduating in May 2016 with a Masters of Science degree in Wildlife Biology. I am in my 4th season as a Biological Technician at Buffalo Lake NWR. Working for the Fish and Wildlife Service has opened my eyes as to how the concepts and teachings from my coursework are actually applied in the real world. I get to see firsthand how management and biologists work together to achieve FWS goals. The physical training and critical thinking skills acquired from this position will adequately equip me for a future in wildlife biology.



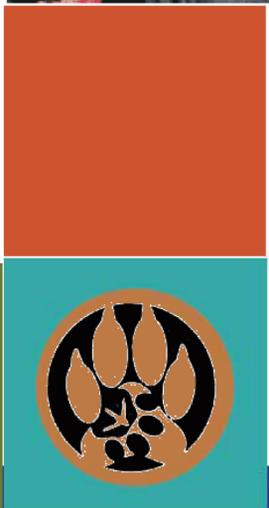
Hello, my name is Jesse Trujillo! I am a current student at Eastern New Mexico University pursuing a wildlife and fisheries degree. This summer my pathways field station is at Santa Ana NWR where I am helping fill in as an assistant manager. Few of the various projects will be completed before the end of my stay include signage inventory for a search and rescue plan and creating a wetland management guide. My hobbies outside of work include hunting, fishing and raising boer goats at my ranch. The Fish and Wildlife Service has given me great learning opportunities and I look forward to continue moving toward my goals of being a full time biologist.



Hi my name is Roy Ulibarri and I am currently a graduate student at the University of Arizona and will be graduating with a degree in fish conservation and management this coming fall. My research is focused on determining suitable and preferred habitat for the Zuni Bluehead Sucker, along with testing snorkeling techniques against environmental DNA sampling. I received a BS in Zoology with a minor in Botany from Western New Mexico University. I am a pathways permanent out of the Arizona fish and wildlife conservation office. In my free time I enjoy fly fishing, rock climbing, and hiking. Working for the fish and wildlife has given me not only the opportunity to work outdoors in amazing places, but to work on projects that have allowed me to gain experience, skills, and meet some great people.



Hello, my name is Rueben Mendoza and I am pursuing a degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana. I will graduate in December 2016 and am currently a Pathways at Uvalde NFH. I am a Colorado native and spent most of my time outdoors growing up. This helped to solidify my interest in pursuing a career in Natural Resources and my experience in the Pathways Program has been indispensable. I have been fortunate enough to get the opportunity to conduct a pilot program to develop fish culture techniques for the Silvery Minnow at Uvalde NFH. I continue to expand my knowledge and skills daily which will be invaluable for my future career.



Hotel Information

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Albuquerque
201 Marquette Avenue Northwest,
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87102-2248
TEL: +1-505-247-3344

Directions from Albuquerque International Airport:
Take I-25 north to Martin Luther King exit; turn left on MLK, go approx
1 mile; hotel is on right between 2nd and 3rd streets. Distance from Hotel:
4.5 mi.

Drive Time: 10 min.

Workshop Coordinators

Sharon Fuller-Barnes
Workforce Employment Recruiter, Region 2
Cell: (404) 307-1559
Office: (512) 490-0057 ext. 230
E-mail: sharon_fuller-barnes@fws.gov

Gary Hutchison
Youth Programs Coordinator, Region 2
Office: (505) 248-6278
E-mail: gary_hutchison@fws.gov

A Guide to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Lingo: Acronyms & Abbreviations

Acronym—noun

1. a word formed from the initial letters or groups of letters of words in a set phrase or series of words
2. often confusing, misunderstood, unintelligible

Common Service Acronyms

CDIP - Career Discovery Internship Program
ESFO - Ecological Services Field Office
FHC - Fish Health Center
FRO - Fishery Resource Office
FWCO - Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
FWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS - Geographic Information System
NFH - National Fish Hatchery
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
NWRS - National Wildlife Refuge System
PLO - Private Lands Office
SCA - Student Conservation Association
WMD - Wetland Management District
DFP - Directorate Fellows Program

