

Wesley T. Bowens

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Employment

WDFW, Fish & Wildlife Biologist 1

May 2022 - Current, Olympia, WA

Support research evaluating effectiveness of state forest practices for non-fish bearing streams with a focus on stream-associated amphibians and their habitats. As crew lead responsible for overseeing a crew of six field staff, managing protocol training and species identification, data collection, efficient completion of project goals, and ensuring positive morale and safety of field staff while living remotely in camp settings. Conducts biological surveys using established procedures capturing and handling organisms, collecting genetic samples for analysis, and characterizing streams and stream habitats. Tracks and prioritizes field sampling progress and completion, downloads and manages data while coordinating with project managers to maximize effectiveness. Responsible for installing stream monitoring equipment. Safely operates and maintains vehicles, navigates private forestlands following WDFW and private landowner safety protocols while using GPS and ARCGIS applications.

WDFW, Scientific Technician 3

May 2021 - May 2022, Olympia, WA

Conducted biological surveys for stream-associated amphibians, Western Toads, and off-channel wetland monitoring. As a crew lead, responsible for safety and planning. Hiked and navigated off-trail through dense vegetation on steep slopes, harvested areas, and wetlands to access sites. Conducted rubble-rouse surveys in headwater streams. Safely used boats and waded in river networks and ponds while surveying. Safely operated and navigated 4x4 vehicles on logging roads and complex undeveloped road networks. Collected biotic and habitat data on various devices or paper using logic, knowledge of the project area, and established quality control methods. Safely handled organisms while collecting genetic samples including capture and pit tagging of federally listed Oregon Spotted Frogs. Evaluated data for completeness, reliability, accuracy, consistency, and comparability with other data. Maintained respectful working relationships with field crew, collaborators, private landowners, and community members. Maintained vehicles and equipment. Adhered rigidly to COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

WDFW, Scientific Technician 2

Nov 2021- Jan 2021, Montesano, WA

Conducted stream surveys identifying, recording, and monitoring salmonid redds and carcass recovery (live/dead fish counts) within selected stream reaches. Accurately collected data recorded on paper field forms including GPS locations and mapping. Performed biological collection of dead fish (carcasses) including the identification of mark status (adipose/dorsal fin), scale sampling (age/origin), coded wire tags recovery, fork length identifying opercle punch, t-tags or jaw tags, DNA tissue samples. Maintained accurate and timely field records. Performed data summarization and data entry.

WDFW, Scientific Technician 2**May 2020 - Oct 2020, Olympia, WA**

Conducted biological surveys for stream-associated amphibians, Western Toads, and off-channel wetlands for fish and amphibians. Hiked and navigated off-trail through dense vegetation on steep slopes, harvested areas, and wetlands to access sites. Conducted rubble-rouse surveys in steep headwater streams. Safely used boats and waded in river networks and ponds while surveying. Safely operated and navigated 4x4 vehicles on logging roads and complex undeveloped road networks. Collected biotic and habitat data on various devices or paper using logic, knowledge of the project area, and established quality control methods. Safely handled organisms while collecting genetic samples including Western Toads and Van Dyke's Salamanders. Assisted with capturing and pit tagging of federally listed Oregon Spotted Frogs. Evaluated data for completeness, reliability, accuracy, consistency, and comparability with other data. Maintained respectful working relationships with field crew, collaborators, private landowners, and community members. Maintained vehicles and equipment. Lived remotely in camp settings demonstrating leadership in establishing camps, maintaining crew morale, safety, and adaptability to variable conditions. Adhered to COVID-19 safety protocols.

Metro Parks Tacoma, Environmental Educator**Oct 2016- Mar 2020, Point Defiance Park, Tacoma, WA**

Developed and led natural history programming for Point Defiance Park in collaboration with the Audubon Society and Slater Museum. Established a successful monthly nature walk program, Coffee with the Birds, based on seasonality and conservation science.

Bar Francis, Barista**May 2017- Mar 2020, Olympia, WA**

Responsible for quality drink preparation while providing attentive and personable customer service. Responsible for daily operations and maintenance and handling workloads in a timely, efficient manner.

Lift Bridge Coffee, General Manager**Jan 2016- June 2017, Tacoma, WA**

Developed a sustainable business model, established, and managed an innovative coffee bar in the historic downtown post office building. Managed daily operations including hiring, inventory, scheduling, budget and sales forecasting, marketing, and events. Developed community partnerships with local non-profits.

Northwest Wildlife Science, Scientific Technician**Apr- Jul 2015, Corvallis, OR**

Conducted biological research monitoring Burrowing Owls. Collected and analyzed data for breeding success, species diversity, and habitat ecology. Surveyed for new and established owl nesting sites walking line-transect surveys. Monitored active nest sites to confirm breeding success. Managed data using ArcGIS and MS Office software. Safely operated and maintained 4x4 vehicles in off-road conditions. Maintained respectful working relationships with field crew, collaborators, private landowners, and community members in conjunction with U.S. Naval protocols and Federal land use policies.

University of Arizona, Wildlife Biologist**Jan- Mar 2015, Tucson, AZ**

Conducted biological research including bird banding, behavioral observations, and collecting habitat data for a comprehensive study of the wintering ecology of Western Flycatchers. Managed data using ArcGIS and MS Office software. Maintained respectful working relationships with field crew, collaborators, private landowners, and community members on the Reserva Ecologia Monte Mojino in Northern Mexico.

Institute for Bird Populations, Scientific Technician**Apr 2013- Aug 2013, North Cascades, WA**

Collected biotic and habitat data of all bird species observed adhering to point-count survey protocols and stringent quality control standards. Backpacked remotely for 5-10 days per trip often off-trail in difficult terrain while navigating using map, compass, and GPS. Managed data using MS Office and database software. Conducted work in a professional manner adhering to policies of the National Park Service.

Museum of Natural History, Collections Manager**Sep 2011- May 2013, Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA**

Managed and collaborated with faculty, students, and the public accessing the natural history collection including scheduling, educational tours, providing academic program support. Responsible for database management, curation, preparation, and maintenance of specimens. Taught workshops in evolutionary biology, ecology, botany, natural history, and specimen preparation.

Experience

Stream Team, Volunteer**Jan- Mar 2020 Olympia, WA**

Attended presentations in amphibian ecology and egg mass identification. Conducted egg mass surveys in local watersheds while maintaining positive, respectful, and professional working relationships with collaborators and community members.

WDFW, Scientific Technician- Volunteer**Jun- Sep 2019, Olympia, WA**

Assisted the field crew conducting biological surveys for stream-associated amphibians, Western Toads, and off-channel wetlands for fish and amphibians. Hiked and navigated off-trail through dense vegetation on steep slopes, harvested areas, and wetlands to access sites. Conducted rubble-rouse surveys in steep headwater streams. Collected biotic and habitat data on various devices using logic and established protocols. Safely handled organisms while collecting genetic samples from target species. Maintained professional, respectful working relationships with field crew, collaborators, private landowners, and community members

Summer Ornithology, Lead Teacher's Assistant**July 2012- Aug 2016, Olympia, WA**

Led and taught college students principles of biological research, field ornithology, bird banding, and natural history. Responsible for operating a remote field camp for five weeks in SE Oregon including the health and safety of 25 people.

Alamos Wildlands Alliance, Scientific Technician

Dec 2012- Apr 2013, Sonora, Mexico

Trained interns and local students in the principles and procedures of biological field research. Conducted biological research including bird surveys, vegetation surveys, bird banding, territory mapping, nest monitoring, and habitat ecology adhering to established protocols. Established long-term migratory raptor monitoring survey protocol. Safely operated watercraft in various aquatic habitats. Managed and analyzed data using ArcGIS, MS Excel, and database software. Maintained professional, respectful working relationships with collaborators, private landowners, and community members while also responsible for daily maintenance of a remote research station.

Alamos Wildlands Alliance, Scientific Technician- Intern

Jan- Mar 2012, Sonora, Mexico

Trained in the principles and procedures of biological field research. Conducted bird banding, bird surveys, point intercept vegetation surveys adhering to established protocols. Trained to meticulously record data and natural history observations using Grinnell journal method. Trained to identify and distinguish organisms visually and audibly. Safely operated watercraft in various aquatic habitats. Managed and analyzed data using MS Office and database software. Maintained professional, respectful working relationships with collaborators, private landowners, and community members while also responsible for daily maintenance of a remote research station.

Education

Bachelors of Arts & Sciences, May 2013. Evolutionary Biology & Ecology. Natural History.

Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA

Awarded two-year Natural History Fellowship.