Brennen McGinn

Education

Bachelors of Science: Conservation and Resources|University of California, Berkeley |Berkeley, CA |August 2017 - December 2020

Areas of Interest: Upper Division Coursework

1. Animal Behavior

- a. INTEGBI C144: Animal Behavior
 - i. This course discussed comparative animal behavior and behavioral physiology in an evolutionary context. We learned to analyze behavior, genetics, development, learning aggression, reproduction, adaptiveness, and physiological substrates and look for the evolutionary mechanisms and circumstances they developed in. We examined animal societies, sexual selection, group behavior, and eusociality. My final project was research on Sandhill Cranes I did at a preserve near my hometown.
- b. ESPM 142: Insect Behavior
 - i. In this course we learned about sensory systems in insects, chemoreception, insect vision and hearing, foraging, predator-prey interactions, mimicry, parasitism, symbiosis, mutualism, migration, dispersal, habitat selection, sexual selection, sociality, speciation, learning, and memory.

2. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

- a. ESPM 114: Wildlife Ecology
 - i. In this class we discussed wildlife on every scale, from individuals to populations to communities. We learned how to analyze models and identify trends in population dynamics and discussed sustainable wildlife harvest and how to estimate optimal sustainable yield and contrast it with maximum sustainable yield. For my final project, I estimated the number of crows in Southside Berkeley.
- b. ESPM C103: Principles of Conservation Biology
 - i. In this class we learned about crisis biology and the principles and practices used to preserve endangered species and assist them in recovering. We discuss factors that affect the creation, destruction and distribution of diversity at the gene, species, and ecosystem level, and the causes of extinction. We learned to interpret and create life tables from population samples and reproductive rates, identify reproductive strategies, calculate change in Heterozygosity and apply conservation genetics, and use quantitative analysis to understand population dynamics, estimate growth rates, and future populations. For my final project, I focused on the endangered African Penguin, evaluating current management, research, and viewpoints of stakeholders, recommending

actions to take, identifying research gaps, and providing a plan for proposed future research.

3. Political Ecology

- a. ESPM 161: Environmental Philosophy and Ethics
 - i. In this class we discussed the philosophy behind environmental movements and the ethics needed for conducting proper environmental science and working in the environmental landscape both in domestic settings and abroad. We discussed Radical Ecology, Deep Ecology, Spiritual Ecology, Ecofeminism, and Environmental Justice. We also studied biological insights from indigenous cultures of South Asia, East Asia, Native American, and Australian Aboriginal Dreamtime.
- b. LEGALST 190: Seminar on Topics in Law and Society
 - i. In this course we read full-length books every week and discussed the laws and political systems they each shed light on. We learned about the historical circumstances in which the story took place and when the author was writing to identify the political statements each book made about the laws in their society.
- c. ESPM 168: Political Ecology
 - i. In this class we analyzed socio-environmental conflicts, their origins, and how they affect access to and control of resources, with an emphasis on how institutions, policies, laws, and practices influence, construct, and interact with nature. We discussed materialities, access, primitive accumulation, situated knowledges, biopolitics, bio-ironies, bundles of rights, access to resources, and narrative analysis. My final paper examined a land grab in Southwest Cameroon to create a Palm Oil Plantation and the narratives being pushed by the different actors involved.
- d. ENERESW174: Water and Sanitation Justice
 - i. This course explored water justice and injustice on local, state, national, and transnational scales and taught us how to analyze problems and social processes including claims for human rights, deprivation and exclusion, urbanization and infrastructure development, and privatization of land and water. We looked at cases in high-income and low-income countries and used key technical and social concepts to examine rights.

Backcountry Skills Certificate | Reedley College | Reedley, CA | July 2022 - August 2022

- e. NR-90: Backpacking
 - i. Topics covered included route planning, equipment selection, multiple night travel, trail etiquette, food preparation, campsite selection, basic map reading and compass use, and backcountry safety.
- f. NR-91: Wilderness Navigation
 - i. This course discussed map and compass use, coordinate systems, map symbols, topographic maps, GPS use, and orienteering. I gained

hands-on experience with GPS and map and compass mountain navigation.

- g. NR-92: Orienteering
 - i. This course prepared me for travel in wilderness environments and extended outdoor situations, both planned and unplanned, with limited equipment. I learned shelter building, fire making, food and water collection, and safety in wilderness settings.

Geospatial Information Systems Courses|Foothill College|Online (Los Altos Hills, CA) |September 2022 - December 2022

Foothill College - Fall 2022

- 1. GIST 11 Introduction to Mapping and Spatial Reasoning
 - a. Introduction to the fundamental concepts of geospatial technology, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing (RS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS), map reading, and cartography. Exploration of how geospatial technologies are used in addressing human and environmental issues and can promote sustainability.
- 2. GIST 12 Introduction to Geospatial Technology
 - a. Study of geospatial technology, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), cartography, remote sensing, and spatial analysis. Application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) science to spatial data management. Assessment of vector and raster systems, scale, resolution, map projection, coordinate systems and georeferencing. Identification and acquisition of spatial data.

Various Supplementary Classes in Further Preparation for Masters|State Center Community College District - Multiple Schools| Online (Fresno County, CA) | August 2022 -May 2023

Reedley College - Fall 2022 - Calculus I

Fresno City College - Spring 2023 - Intro to Earth Science

Madera Community College - Spring 2023 - Intro to Plant Science

Clovis Community College - Spring 2023 - Elementary Statistics

Agricultural Work — Farmer and Farmhand

|Hanford, CA | Selma, CA | September 2020 - Present

- Started an organic kale farm/business on my parents property in Hanford, CA in September 2020 which I am the sole caretaker of, including raised bed construction with non-lethal rodent barriers, planting, transplanting, tilling of soil, fertilizing, and watering. Kale is sold to friends and other local Hanford residents.
- Pruning, harvesting, and fertilizing for my elderly grandfather's citrus orchard in Selma, CA

CALPIRG, UC Berkeley — Intern

| Berkeley, CA | August 2017 - November 2017

- Signed up UC Berkeley Students for CALPIRG (California Public Interest Research Group)
- Gathered signatures from Students and local Berkeley residents for various campaign petitions including Save the Bees campaign at multiple locations on and off Campus

Sequoia Riverlands Trust — California Council of Land Trusts Intern

| Visalia, CA | June 2017 - August 2017 (10-week internship)

- Attended weeklong training and general overview of land trust goals in Sacramento, CA
- Removed invasive species from preserves
- Recorded location of flora and landmarks with handheld GPS device and constructed ARC-GIS map from the data collected
- Constructed greenhouse
- Planted, transplanted, and cleanup in native plant nursery
- Landscaped for local business to reduce water usage during drought
- Lead student groups through educational walks on preserves and activities both outdoors and in the classroom
- Conducted Agricultural Easement Monitoring to ensure soil quality preservation and land productivity incrboth rangeland and crop fields
- Organized data for SRT employees using microsoft excel
- Preserve maintenance and cleanup

Hanford West MEChA — Sergeant of Arms

| Hanford, CA | August 2016 - June 2017

- Registered citizens in Hanford, CA to vote in the 2016 election
- Volunteered at Caeser Chavez march and handed out bottled water to marchers
- Organized Mexican cultural events and celebrations for Hanford West students

National Geographic Student Expeditions — Student Volunteer

- | Namibia, Africa | July 2015
 - Conducted population surveys of herbivore species on game reserve
 - Learned wildlife radio-collar tracking techniques and animal print identification
 - Met with indigenous San people and learned traditional uses of plants, fire-making, and bow hunting techniques
 - Learned about anti-poaching strategies from Rhino and Elephant conservationists
 - Volunteered at Cheetah Conservation Fund, including preparing food for rescued cheetahs and feeding and cleaning pens of livestock and livestock-guarding dogs