

Scott Blum

Education:

- 6/99 – 8/03 Master of Science, Ecology – Idaho State University
M.S. Research: GIS analysis of mountain lion habitat use.
Advisors: Drs. Ernest Keeley & John Laundré
*ISU Dept. of Biology
Campus Box 8007
Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8007
(208) 282-3765*
- 9/83 – 12/88 Bachelor of Science, Zoology
State University of N.Y. College at Oswego
Zoology Senior Award
*SUNY Oswego
Dept. of Biology
Oswego, New York 13126*
- 5/87 – 12/88 Associate of Science, Zoo Animal Technology
Santa Fe Community College
*SFCC
3000 NW 83rd St.
Gainesville, Florida 32609*

Employment History:

- 11/04 – Present Assistant Biologist/Information Specialist - MTNHP
Program Coordinator - Bryce Maxell (406) 444-3989
*MT Natural Heritage Program
1201 11th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1800*
- 6/04 – 9/04 Biological Science Technician – Northwest Connections
Supervisors: Melanie & Tom Parker (406) 754-3185
Field Technician for the USGS Northern Divide Grizzly
Bear Project (Mission Mountains/Swan Valley Subunit)
*Northwest Connections
P.O. Box 1309
Swan Valley, MT 59826-1309*
- 12/03 – 4/04 Biological Science Technician – Rocky Mtn Research Station
Field Supervisor: Jay Kolbe (406) 210-9830
RMRS Missoula: John Squires (406) 542-4146
Field Technician: Coyote tracking crew
*USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Research Station
P.O. Box 8089
Missoula, MT 59807*
- 6/03 – 11/03 Biological Science Technician – Pacific SW Research Station
Field Supervisor: Zea Walton (559) 877-4719
SNFPA Carnivore Monitoring Team Leader -
Rick Truex (559) 784-1500 Ext. 1171
Field Technician: Forest carnivore survey crew
*USDA Forest Service
Sequoia National Forest
900 W. Grand Ave
Porterville, CA 93257*
- 12/02 – 5/03 Biological Science Technician – Rocky Mtn Research Station
Field Supervisor: Jay Kolbe (406) 210-9830
RMRS Missoula: John Squires (406) 542-4146
Field Technician: Coyote tracking crew
*USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Research Station
P.O. Box 8089
Missoula, MT 59807*
- 1/02 - 4/02 & 5/01 – 8/01 Research Technician – Plum Creek Timber Company
Field Supervisor: Jay Kolbe (406) 210-9830
PCTC Supervisor: Henning Stabins (406) 892-6313
Field Technician assigned to assist in Rocky Mountain
Research Station study of lynx habitat use.
*Plum Creek Timber Company
500 12th Avenue West
P.O. Box 1990
Columbia Falls, MT 59912*

Additional Experience:

- 8/99 – 12/01 Teaching Assistant – Idaho State University
Anatomy and Physiology Lab
8/90 – 6/99 Store Manager – Liverpool, NY
Pet Pals (pet store)
- 2/90 – 5/90 Zookeeper – Brookfield Zoo
Brookfield, Illinois
1/89 – 2/90 Zookeeper – Racine Zoo
Racine, Wisconsin
- 1/88 – 12/88 Animal Technician (part time) – Wildlife Ward, Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital
University of Florida – Gainesville, Florida

Work Experience:

In my position with the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP), my duties include a wide range of data management actions including, but not limited to, data processing and appending, record review, and data request processing. My day-to-day responsibilities cover a vast array of activities involving ArcPro GIS, Access databases, Excel spreadsheets, Word documents, PDFs, and other applications and platforms. It's a lot.

Prior to starting with MTNHP, I was employed by Northwest Connections, a non-profit organization and partner in the multi-agency Northern Divide Grizzly Bear Project organized and directed by Kate Kendall and the USGS. I worked on a two-person crew in the Swan Valley of NW Montana packing in and deploying barbed wire, hair-snagging stations and monitoring bear visits to rub objects within a ~540km² assigned area. My partner and I were responsible for selecting snag station sites based on habitat values and site suitability within a pre-assigned area, recording detailed information about each site, and using excruciating care to collect hair samples from barbs, trees, and other objects within each snag station (and from each rub object). I received a citation from the project data manager for the quality (completeness and legibility) of my data recording.

For the winters of 2003 and 2004, I worked as a field technician for the Rocky Mountain Research Station (USFS) out of Missoula, Montana. I was part of a crew of technicians assigned to track coyotes in the Seeley Lake area and collect data on habitat use related to snow compaction by snowmobiles and potential competition with lynx (Jay Kolbe's M.S. research). Through this work, I have experience with navigating and moving safely through rough winter terrain on snowshoe and snowmobile, the collection of track data in the field (snow characteristics, forest stand parameters, and presence of predator and prey species), the use of Trimble GeoExplorer 3 units to record this data, and the manipulation of these files in the Pathfinder and ArcView GIS programs. I was responsible for reviewing all the recorded tracks in ArcView to identify gaps in the tracks and other discrepancies as well as cleaning up point clusters and outliers. I performed additional 'data wrangling' after the field season including procuring and using an extension to extract measurements from the track data for use in analysis.

In the summer of 2003, I worked on a crew stationed within the Sierra National Forest for a Pacific Southwest Research Station (USFS) project to survey forest carnivore populations throughout the Sierra Nevada Mountains. My duties included preparing, packing in, and setting up sooted track plate stations in front and back country sites within the forest, recording track data and site descriptions, and setting up and maintaining motioned-triggered camera stations.

In the winter of 2001-02, I worked as a field technician on the RMRS lynx research project in the Seeley Lake area, collecting data on habitat characteristics associated with lynx tracks. Working on two person crews, I followed lynx tracks for 3 km on snowshoes collecting continuous habitat data with the Trimble GeoExplorer 3 GPS unit as well as collecting more detailed habitat measurements at random points on the track as well as at kill sites and day beds.

I worked as a technician on this same project in the summer of 2001, collecting radio-telemetry locations on the ground (on foot or 4 wheel drive vehicles), conducting detailed vegetation surveys at these locations, and participating in small mammal trapping (lynx prey survey).

At ISU I performed field research on mountain lion habitat use towards obtaining a master's degree in ecology. I have experience with the tracking, capturing (rifle-fired tranquilizer darts), and handling of mountain lions; the collection of morphological measurements, and experience in the collection of radio-telemetry data (ground-based). In addition, I have acquired experience in data management, scientific writing, and ArcView production and manipulation through my research and coursework. While a graduate student, I served as a field assistant to the principal investigator on the mountain lion project during periods in the summer and winter when we hosted teams of volunteers from the Earthwatch program. My duties included transporting teams to study sites, training and supervising volunteers involved in field activities, and morale resuscitation.

I am competent with map and compass and GPS technologies. I have logged many safe kilometers on foot and 4 wheel drive vehicles and on snowshoe and snowmobile in a variety of landscapes with extensive travel in mountainous terrain in both winter and summer extremes. I have experience with basic snowmobile maintenance and some experience with minor repairs. I have received training in wilderness first aid and CPR through the Forest Service and other organizations. Through various jobs I have experience in the capture and handling of an array of reptiles, birds, and mammals. I am responsible and careful with data recording, with an eye for detail and steady hand at writing.