



## *Interagency Wilderness Fellows Initiative*

# Meet the 2012 Wilderness Fellows

The Wilderness Fellows Initiative was established to advance wilderness stewardship in our federally protected areas while providing college students and recent graduates an opportunity to gain valuable career experience. This year's Initiative fosters interagency collaboration among the National Park Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, and Forest Service to preserve wilderness character within and across agency boundaries. This Initiative is being conducted in partnership with American Conservation Experience.

Wilderness Fellows provide on-the-ground support to help staff integrate wilderness character into monitoring, planning, and management. Twelve refuges from Florida to Alaska, five parks in Colorado and Arizona, and Forest Service wildernesses in Colorado and Montana are hosting Wilderness Fellows for up to six months. Fellows will produce baseline assessments of wilderness character and enter data into an interagency database, write wilderness character narratives for the parks addressing the special and unique qualities of the wilderness, and assist staff in many ways to improve wilderness stewardship.



**Sarah Crump**

Sarah is a 2011 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Political Science. While earning her degree Sarah spent a semester studying sustainable coastal living and coastal environmental law at the Albemarle Ecological Field Site located on North Carolina's Outer Banks. She developed a sustainability plan for Currituck municipality through her work with Currituck County Planning Department. A returning Wilderness Fellow, Sarah spent six months after graduation interning for Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico. At Bandelier she helped develop a backcountry use data catalog for use in future resource management decisions and earned her wildland firefighting certification. She enjoys traveling to new places, hiking with friends, bluegrass music, and skiing. Sarah will be working with Dinosaur National Monument for the summer of 2012.

Mark graduated from the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management, University of Oregon, in December 2011 where he earned his Master of Community and Regional Planning. He also earned his B.S. in resource management with an emphasis on Land Use Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2006. Mark worked for the Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience, developing Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans for cities and counties throughout Oregon. In addition, Mark worked with the City of Lebanon, Oregon for two years in the development of a community-wide trail system through the University of Oregon's Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) program. In his free time Mark enjoys, biking, fishing, jogging, books, movies, and basketball. Mark will serve as a Wilderness Fellow at Fort Niobrara, Valentine, and Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuges.



**Mark Swenson**

## Meet the 2012 Wilderness Fellows



**Jesse Engebretson**

Jesse is a PhD student in the Department of Conservation Social Sciences at the University of Idaho. Jesse has a BS in Natural Resources and the Environment (Policy, Management and Law) and a BA in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota. Additionally, he has an MA in Environmental Anthropology from the University of Kent in the United Kingdom. His research interests include wilderness management, political ecology, environmental history and the securitization of federally protected landscapes along the US-Mexico border. Outside the realm of academics, he is interested in camping, hiking, literature and contemporary social movements. Jesse is excited to be spending six months as a Wilderness Fellow in Saguaro National Park and Chiricahua National Monument.

Tatiana is a recent graduate with Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Metropolitan State University of Denver. Her passion and love for nature, outdoors, and wildlife led her to choose Environmental Science as her major. After this fellowship, she plans to return to school in 2013 to study ecology for a masters degree. On her time off, she enjoys reading autobiographies, hiking, yoga, watching documentaries, cooking vegetarian meals, and traveling with her friends. Tatiana will be working with the staff at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, as well as with managers at the adjacent National Forests that contain the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness.



**Tatiana Bogdanova**



**Thomas Jablonowski**

Tom graduated from Ursinus College near Philadelphia, PA, in May of 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies with a minor in Biology. Tom also studied ecology, biodiversity, and coastal management at James Cook University in Queensland, Australia. He has assisted with the Live Animal Center at the Academy of Natural Sciences. He has worked on developing an interdisciplinary management plan for Hunsberger Woods, PA. He also started a long-term ecological study of avian biodiversity and abundance through the Ursinus College Biology Department. In his spare time, Tom enjoys rock climbing, biking, bird watching, tennis, scuba diving, and cars and auto racing. Tom will be working as a Wilderness Fellow at Bitterlake and Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuges in New Mexico.

Molly graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies with a minor in Geography. While at UNC, Molly attended the Albemarle Ecological Field Site in the Outer Banks of North Carolina where she proposed environmentally conscious amendments to several town ordinances. She developed a stormwater mitigation plan for the town of Manteo, N.C., and proposed a cost-effective curbside recycling program. She studied renewable energy options for the Outer Banks coastal communities. Molly served as a USFWS 2011 Wilderness Fellow at Imperial and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuges in southwest Arizona. She enjoys hiking, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, traveling, and nature photography. Molly will be working in Florida at National Key Deer and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuges.



**Molly McCarter**

## Meet the 2012 Wilderness Fellows

Kelly graduated from the University of Maryland in May 2012, where she earned her Master's degree in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology. She earned her Bachelor's degree in quantitative biology from the University of Delaware. Kelly has studied tropical biodiversity and conservation biology issues while in Costa Rica. She studied environmental policy and socio-ecological systems in Indonesia. Kelly developed a watershed management plan for the Columbia Association of Columbia, MD and created an economic tool for the conservation of the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta, Biosphere Reserve in Colombia. Kelly's academic interests include environmental restoration as it relates to human welfare and ecosystem services. In addition to all things outdoors, Kelly always enjoys a competitive game of ultimate Frisbee. She is excited to serve as a Wilderness Fellow in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.



**Kelly Pippins**



**Taryn Sudol**

Taryn graduated from the University of Maryland, in May 2012, where she earned her Master's of Science in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology. She worked on projects that included adaptive management of invasive aquatic flora in Kings Bay, F.L., strategic planning for land trusts in the Chesapeake Bay, and woodland patch connectivity in Prince George's County, M.D. Prior to her graduate career, Taryn received her Bachelor of Science in environmental science with minors in sustainable development and English from University of Florida. She has also monitored the population of the Karner blue butterflies at the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park, N.Y. In her free time, Taryn enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, and drinking iced tea. Taryn will serve as a Wilderness Fellow at Monomoy and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuges, as well as Assateague Island National Seashore for the National Park Service.

Mark earned a BS in Recreation and Leisure Services from Murray State University in 2006. From 2006 to 2009 he worked as an outdoor education program coordinator in the San Bernardino Mountains, as a Student Conservation Association trail crew leader in the Amistad and Dinosaur NPS units, and as a naturalist at the Whiskeytown Environmental School. From 2009 to 2011 he attended Humboldt State University and earned an MS in Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation. His thesis examined overnight trip characteristics in the Yosemite Wilderness to inform the development of a wilderness travel simulation model. He now attends The University of Montana and is working towards a Forestry PhD in the department of Society and Conservation. Mark will be working as a Wilderness Fellow at Glacier National Park this summer.



**Mark Douglas**

## Meet the 2012 Wilderness Fellows

Steve graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in May 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences. While at UW-Stout he concentrated on land management and plant sciences. Steve worked as an undergraduate researcher for two summers conducting water quality measurements on a local stream in Menomonie, WI. The result of this research was the creation of a pollution reduction plan for the City of Menomonie. Last summer, Steve assisted University of Minnesota graduate students with invasive species research, assessing the health of invaded oak forests throughout the state of Minnesota. Along with his interests in natural resource management and conservation, Steve enjoys camping, rock climbing, snowboarding, disc golfing, and spending time with friends and family. For the next six months, Steve will serve as a Wilderness Fellow at Crab Orchard and Mingo National Wildlife Refuges.



**Steve Zweber**



**Jessica Bolis**

Jessica is earning a Master of Science degree from the College of Environmental and Forest Sciences at the University of Washington studying environment effects on satellite locations for wolverines in the North Cascades. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Arizona. Before attending graduate school, she spent several years as a field biologist on various wildlife research projects in the U.S. and abroad. Most recently She worked for the Forest Service in California monitoring the southern Sierra Nevada population of fisher. Her career goals center around finding ways to use sound science to address resource management concerns on public lands. In her spare time, she enjoys backpacking, reading, yoga, traveling, and cooking. Jessica will serve as a Wilderness Fellow at Mission Mountains Wilderness within Flathead National Forest in Montana.

Andrew is finishing a degree in Resource Conservation at the University of Montana. He spent several years in avid exploration of the geography, ecology, and human history of his home continent, through schooling as well as working on trails with American Conservation Experience and Alaska State Parks. He found his way to being a Wilderness Fellow through UM's Wilderness and Civilization program, an interdisciplinary study of wilderness in its social, historical, and philosophical contexts. He interned this past spring with Sundog Ecovillage, a budding permaculture-based development in the Blackfoot valley. Andrew spends as much time outside as possible, whatever the mode of transport and all things backcountry. He loves to play, hear, and write all kinds of music. Andrew will be serving as a Wilderness Fellow at Selway Bitterroot Wilderness and Nez Perce National Forests in Montana.



**Andrew Hursh**

For more information about the Interagency Wilderness Fellow Initiative for 2012, contact:  
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