

KELSEY M. FITZGERALD

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EDUCATION

University of Nevada, Reno – Reno, NV *Sept 2013- May 2015*

- M.A. in Interactive Journalism. Focus on science writing and environmental journalism.
- Master's project: Truckee River Guide (truckeeriverguide.org), a citizen science project and interactive field guide to plants and wildlife of the Truckee River region.

Skidmore College – Saratoga Springs, NY *Sept 1999- May 2003*

- B.A. in Biology. Concentration in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior.
- Semester abroad in Puerto San Carlos, Mexico with School for Field Studies (Boston University).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Hourly Professional, Communications – Desert Research Institute, Reno, NV *July 2017- present*

- Communications specialist for *Native Waters on Arid Lands* project. Content creator for DRI website (blog posts, web page updates for labs and researchers) and other marketing materials.

Technical Writing & Communications – University of Nevada, Reno, NV *June 2015 – June 2017*

- Writer and editor of reports, fact sheets, articles, and other materials for the *Water for the Seasons* and *Native Waters on Arid Lands* projects. Manager and content creator for project websites, social media pages, blog and podcast.

Green Reporter – Reno News & Review, Reno, NV *Sept 2015 – June 2016*

- Covering stories about science, environment and other “green” topics in the Reno region.

Teaching Assistant – University of Nevada, Reno, NV *Aug 2014 – May 2015*

- Lab instructor for introductory journalism course *Jour108 - All Things Media: Design*. Taught basic photography, page layout, design, and use of Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign and WordPress.

Intern – Western Sustainability and Pollution Prevention Network, Reno, NV *May 2014 – July 2014*

- Wrote case studies and success stories on pollution prevention and environmentally friendly business practices for website at WSPPN.org. Designed informational brochures.

Research Assistant – University of Nevada, Reno, NV *Sept 2013 – May 2014*

- Collected data for a nationwide assessment of journalism programs, and for an assessment of news websites in San Francisco Bay Area. Updated and maintained pages on graduate student website.

Project Coordinator/Ecologist – Otis Bay Ecological Consultants, Reno, NV *Sept 2010 – Aug 2013*

- Managed wetland design project for a treatment wetland in Wadsworth, NV. Assisted with design development, met with clients, conducted field surveys and wrote final report.
- Managed habitat restoration project for relict dace (a rare native fish) at Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, NV. Conducted biological surveys and genetic testing, supervised construction of habitat ponds, relocated fish, monitored for survival, wrote progress reports and final report.
- Completed study on formation of spring pools at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Worked collaboratively on biological assessment and restoration plans for Ash Meadows.
- Managed state and federal permitting and environmental compliance for various projects.

Research Assistant – Colorado State University, Glacier National Park, MT *May 2010 – Aug 2010*

- Collected field data for study on climate change and post-fire forest establishment.

- Completed vegetation transects to assess age, abundance and species composition of plant reestablishment following fires. Took fire scar samples and core samples from trees.

Project Coordinator/Field Tech. – *Otis Bay Ecological Consultants, Reno, NV* Apr 2008 – May 2010

- Wrote project proposals and restoration budgets, edited reports, obtained permits for projects.
- Conducted bird surveys, GIS mapping and analysis, plant surveys and vegetation mapping.
- Assisted with surveying at work sites, construction oversight and project implementation.
- Designed hiking trails and interpretive signage for parks in northern and southern Nevada.

Wildland Firefighter – *Bureau of Land Management, Surprise Valley CA* Apr 2007 - Nov 2007

- Worked as a Type II Wildland Firefighter and Faller B trainee sawyer on a 14-person fuels crew.
- Performed wildfire suppression, prescribed burns, fire preparedness, equipment maintenance.
- Constructed fuel breaks, removed Western juniper for habitat restoration and fuel reduction.

Intern - *Keahou Bird Conservation Center – Volcano, Hawaii* Oct 2006 - Jan 2007

- Provided daily care for 8 species of endangered Hawaiian birds in a captive breeding facility.
- Fed birds, maintained aviaries, prepared diets and made behavioral observations.

Great Basin Institute – *Nevada Conservation Corps – Reno, Nevada* Oct 2004 - Aug 2006

- *Crew Supervisor* (4 months): Responsible for safety, logistics, training and supervision of a 10-person crew working on conservation projects located throughout the state of Nevada. Projects included forest thinning, fire prevention, road decommissioning, trail building, and invasive species removal. Organized logistics of food and supplies on tours of up to 8 days in the backcountry.
- *Crew Leader* (4 months): Assistant-in-charge of a desert restoration crew. Helped to train new volunteers and staff, assisted with project logistics and all aspects of crew life.
- *Crew Member* (7 months): Worked as part of a 10 person team to build and maintain hiking trails, decommission illegal OHV roads, remove invasive species of plants using chainsaws, herbicide & hand tools, plant native vegetation, restore habitat for native birds and fish.
- *Spring Mountains Wildlife Technician* (6 months): Performed surveys for Northern Goshawks, owls, reptiles, and rare plants. Conducted songbird point counts. Collected seeds for restoration projects. Navigated to remote areas using GPS, map & compass.
- *Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Intern* (3 months): Removed invasive species of fish and plants from springs. Surveyed for endangered species of pupfish. Mapped springs and channels using GPS/GIS & ArcView. Created Access database for invasive species removal data.

VOLUNTEER WORK

- Farallon Islands Foundation - Member of Board of Directors since 2014.
- Nevada Bugs and Butterflies - Member of Board of Directors since 2014.
- Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful - Project Leader for Truckee River Cleanup, Great Community Cleanup, Christmas Tree Recycling program. Volunteer with the *One Truckee River* project.

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Writing: Freelance writer with a focus on science and natural resources. Contributor to Reno News & Review, Edible Reno-Tahoe, Water Deeply.
- Websites: Experienced in website design (WordPress sites), site management, content creation.
- Software: Proficient in ArcMap10, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, iMovie, Audacity.
- Social Media: Completed Knight Center's *Social Media for Journalists* course, Spring 2014.
- Languages: Spanish (intermediate fluency).
- Professional Certificate in River Restoration, Portland State University (Sept 2010 – Nov 2013).

AWARDS

- Jackie Leonard Scholarship to the Reynolds School of Journalism (2013-2014).