

## Faculty Experience

Assistant Professor, University of Idaho, Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences

Graduate students advised:

- o Brianna Winkel, PhD, Southern mountain caribou recovery
- o Ariana Cerreta, PhD, Effects of harvest on gray wolves
- o Matthew Nelson, MSc, Black bear population monitoring
- o Peter Rebholz, MSc, Effects of harvest on gray wolves
- o Kaitlyn Strickfaden, MSc, Estimating snow refugia and winter severity

Graduate student committees served:

- o Heather Clendenin, MSc, DNA techniques for population monitoring
- o Sam Foster, PhD, Mule deer habitat use
- o Sarah McIntire, MSc, Habitat change and mesocarnivores

Affiliate Faculty, University of Montana, Wildlife Biology Program

Graduate student committees served:

- o Sarah Sells, PhD, Carnivore space use
- o Ally Keever, PhD, Population demography & modeling
- o Kelsey Wellington, MSc (withdrew), Noninvasive population monitoring & estimation
- o Kenneth Loonam, MSc, Noninvasive population monitoring & estimation

## Education

Ph. D. Fish and Wildlife Biology, *The University of Montana*: 2011-2015

Wesley M. Dixon Fellow. Dissertation: Groups and mortality: their effects on cooperative behavior and population growth in a social carnivore

M. Sc. Wildlife Biology, *The University of Montana*: 2003-2005

Thesis: Assessing the success of swift fox reintroductions on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Montana

B. Sc. Wildlife Biology with University Scholar distinction, *The University of Montana*: 2000-2003

Thesis: Effects of precommercial thinning on snowshoe hare habitat use

Division of Undergraduate Studies, Pennsylvania State University: 1996-1998

## Experience

November 2018 – Present: Assistant Unit Leader (2 ~~reW~~\*nBTF2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 2.0241676 Tm0 g0 G[~~HT~~Jial



Designed study to test whether wolf density can be estimated using noninvasive survey data and emerging statistical modeling techniques.  
Collaborating on planning and implementation of multistate survey for fishers in Idaho and Montana.

- o Canid populations previously unstudied and questions unasked are now being addressed because the resulting techniques are less labor intensive and more cost-effective than traditional capture methods.

Created, implemented, and completed research project to test new, nonlethal tool (biofence) to control interactions between predators (wolves) and their domestic prey (livestock).

- o Published paper discussing the creation of, utility, and limitations of this new nonlethal tool for mitigating wolf conflict.
- o The biofence showed initial promise and is a proactive tool meant to be deployed before depredations occur rather than reacting to them afterward.
- o Technique can be used to separate wolves from undesirable prey (livestock).

Designed and implemented research project exploring effects of mortality on wolf groups and population growth.

- o Study continues presently and has found complex effects of harvest on wolf groups and, more generally, mortality in cooperative breeders.
- o Study has explored relationship between ungulate prey populations and their effects on aspects of wolf group behavior.
- o Results from this research have been used to engage stakeholders to help inform wildlife management and policy decisions.

Was consulted for and spearheaded analyses for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop empirically-based models to estimate

Designed and implemented snowshoe hare/forest thinning research project.

- o Study used a BACI design to test for effect of forest thinning on prey populations (snowshoe hares) in critical predator (Canada lynx) habitat.
- o Findings have been cited numerous times in the Federal Register and have informed lynx ESA listing decisions.

Supervised and coordinated daily tasks for 3-4 volunteers during both fall and winter field seasons.

Wildlife monitoring on state lands: compiled state wildlife observation database, bald eagle and common loon nest monitoring, deployed grizzly bear DNA hair traps.

Timber harvest monitoring: snag, snag recruitment, and coarse woody debris retention sampling - compilation and analysis.

Participated in Habitat Conservation Plan meetings regarding Conservation Strategies.

Delineated state lands within grizzly bear linkage zones for Habitat Conservation Plan inclusion and assessed screening adequacy of vegetation to ensure compliance with Swan River Valley Grizzly Bear Management Agreement - compilation and analysis.

Reviewed and provided comments on EIS documents.

*September 2003 – December 2005: Research Assistant & Teaching Assistant (University of Montana)*

Designed and implemented study that used field estimates and a Population Viability Analysis approach to determine swift fox reintroduction success on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation.

- o Results demonstrate explicitly-defined success criteria are critical at the outset of reintroductions and Native American Tribes are powerful forces for conservation.

Supervised and conducted surveys of prey abundance across large-scale field study area.

Assisted in securing \$50,000 in project funding that helped address natural resource management and policy needs of the state, tribal, and federal government.

Developed reintroduction information booth at North American Indian Days pow-wow.

Many visits to ranchers on and off the Reservation to talk about the project, obtain sighting reports and permission to travel private lands.

Interaction with domestic and foreign media. Print and television.

Supervised and coordinated daily tasks for 4 field technicians.

Trapped, radiocollared, and monitored foxes via radio telemetry (land and air), surveyed and monitored natal dens.

Graduate Teaching Assistant for Wildlife Habitat Conservation (Wildlife Biology 370, 2004 and 2005) and Mammalogy Lab (Biology 306, 2003).

*June 2002-2004*



47. Loonam, K.E., P.M. Lukacs, D.E. Ausband., M.S. Mitchell, and H.S. Robinson. 2021. Assessing the robustness of a new method for estimating wildlife abundance using remote cameras. Ecological Applications. (IP-117335; BAO approval: 6 Mar 2020)
46. Ausband, D.E., and M.S. Mitchell. 2021. The effect of group size on wolf reproduction depends on density. Animal Conservation. (IP-077090; BAO approval: 21 Jun 2017)

33. Jacobs, C.,



7. Ausband, D.E., **J. Holyan, and C. Mack**. 2009. Longevity and adaptability of a reintroduced gray wolf. *Northwestern Naturalist*. 90:44-47.
6. Mitchell, M. S., D.E. Ausband, **C. A. Sime, E. E. Bangs, J. A. Gude, M. D. Jimenez, C. M. Mack, T. J. Meier, M. S. Nadeau, and D. W. Smith**. 2008. Estimation of successful breeding pairs for wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, USA. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. 72:881-891.
5. Waters, S.S., C. Smeeton, K.V. Weagle, and D.E. Ausband. 2007. Re-introducing the swift fox to Blackfeet Tribal Lands, Montana, USA. *IUCN Reintroduction News*. 26:34-35.
4. Ausband, D.E. and K.F. Foresman. 2007. Swift fox reintroductions on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Montana. USA. *Biological Conservation*. 136:423-430.
3. Ausband, D.E. and K.F. Foresman. 2007. Dispersal, survival, and reproduction of wild-born, yearling swift foxes in a reintroduced population. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*. 85:185-189.
2. Ausband, D.E. and E.A. Ausband. 2006. Observations of interactions between swift fox and badgers. *The Prairie Naturalist*. 38(1):63-64.
1. Ausband, D.E., and **G.R. Baty**. 2005. Effects of precommercial thinning on snowshoe hare habitat use during winter in low-elevation montane forests. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*. 35(1): 206-210.

### **Grants & Gifts (Total >\$2 million)**

63. Charitable Foundation, \$14,000
62. Ausband, D.E. Determining the effects of harvest on gray wolves, Private individual, 2021, \$20,000
61. Ausband, D.E. A mesocarnivore survey in southern Idaho. Summerlee Foundation, 2021-2022, \$25,000
60. Ausband, D.E. Determining the effects of harvest on gray wolves, Bernice Barbour Foundation, 2019-2020, \$24,192
59. Ausband, D.E. Determining the effects of harvest on gray wolves, Coypu Foundation, 2021-2022, \$28,000
58. Ausband, D.E. Determining the effects of harvest on gray wolves, Private individual, 2021-2022, \$25,000
57. Ausband, D.E. Determining the effects of harvest on gray wolves, Private individual, 2020-2021, \$25,000
56. Ausband, D.E. Assessing habitat suitability and the spatial design of recovery options for southern mountain caribou in western North America. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2020-2023, \$137,305
55. Ausband, D.E. and T. Link. Estimating snow refugia and winter severity from cameras, U.S. Geological Survey, 2019-2023, \$252,900
54. Ausband, D.E. Monitoring black bear populations, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2019-2022, \$373,000
53. Ausband, D.E. Determining the effects of harvest on gray wolves, Bernice Barbour Foundation, 2019-2020, \$27,000





2. Ausband, D.E. Swift fox reintroductions on the Blackfeet Reservation, Sigma Xi Society, 2004, \$500
1. Foresman, K.R. and Ausband, D.E. Swift fox reintroductions on the Blackfeet Reservation: a prey assessment, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, State Wildlife Grants, 2003-2005, \$50,500

## **Awards and Honors**

U.S. Geological Survey 2020 Performance Award (\$2,800)  
 Nominated for Idaho Department of Fish and Game Employee of the Year (2017)  
 Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2016 Wildlife Bureau Innovation Award  
 Best Professional Presentation, 2011 Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
 Best Technical Paper, 2011 Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
 Best Professional Presentation, 2007 Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
 University of Montana 2015 Award for Excellence in Graduate Research (\$2,500)  
 Wesley M. Dixon PhD Fellowship (\$30,000)  
 Shikar Safari Club International scholarship for graduate students (\$4,000)  
 Cirica Family Scholarship for undergraduate students (\$5,000)

## **Peer and Expert Review**

Peer reviewer for: Science, Scientific Reports, Journal of Applied Ecology, Molecular Ecology Resources, Evolutionary Applications, Conservation Genetics, Ethology, Journal of Mammalogy, Journal of Wildlife Management, Mammal Research, Animal Behavior and Cognition, Polar Research, Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management, Wildlife Society Bulletin, Mammalian Biology, Human Dimensions of Wildlife, Canadian Journal of Zoology, Wildlife Biology in Practice, European Journal of Wildlife Research, Southwestern Naturalist, Proceedings of the Channel Islands Symposium

## **Scientific and Interagency Meetings**

Member Interagency Grizzly Bear Bitterroot Recovery Area Science Committee (2021)  
 Mexican wolf recovery plan peer review panel (2021)  
 Swedish Environmental Protection Agency wolf monitoring review panel (2019)  
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife wolf data sharing committee (2019)  
 Interagency forest carnivore survey planning meetings (2017-2018)  
 Idaho Department of Fish and Game wolf management plan team meeting (2016)  
 Idaho Department of Fish and Game regional wildlife managers meeting (2016)  
 Member of the Swift Fox Conservation Team Research Committee (2015)  
 Trappers Association of Southwest Alberta, Annual 2-day rendezvous (2014)  
 Yellowstone National Park wolf research collaborators meeting (2014)  
 Northern Rockies Interagency wolf management meetings (2006-2010)  
 Nez Perce Tribe and Idaho Department of Fish and Game annual wolf monitoring meetings (2006-2014)  
 British Columbia wolf monitoring meeting (2015)  
 Southwest Alberta Cattlemen carnivore monitoring meetings (four in 2013)  
 Chain Lakes Livestock producers, Southwest Alberta (2013)  
 Southwest Alberta AESRD and Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association carnivore monitoring meetings (2010-2014)  
 Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks regional wildlife managers meetings (2006-2010)



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- Invited speaker and panelist
- 2011 Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society
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  - o How to trick a
- 2011 Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society
  - o How to trick a wolf: manipulating pack movements with b
- 2011 Animal Grantmakers Conference
  - o How to trick a wolf: using a biofence to manipulate wol
- Invited speaker and panelist
- 2011 Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society
  - o How to trick a wolf: manipulating pack movements with b
- 2010 Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society
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- 2009 Wildlife Society Annual Conference
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- 2009 North American Carnivores Conference
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- 2008 Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society
  - o Developing wolf population monitoring methods: a research update
- 2008 North American Wolf Conference
  - o Developing wolf population monitoring methods: a research update
- 2007 Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society
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- 2007 Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society
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- 2006 Swift Fox Conservation Team Meeting
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- 2005 Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society
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Montana FWP Wind farm project, swift fox capture  
UMT Thompson River highway project, bighorn sheep monitoring  
Meadow Hills after school Flagship Program  
Red Cross hurricane relief efforts  
UMT snowshoe hare Ph.D. research project  
USFWS wolf capture, Northwest Montana

## **References**

Dr. Courtney Conway, Unit Leader, Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.  
Phone: 208-885-6176, email: cconway@uidaho.edu

Dr. Shane Roberts, Research and Data Coordinator Chief, Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Phone: 208-881-2174, email: shane.roberts@idfg.idaho.gov

Dr. Mike Mitchell, Unit Leader (retired), Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.  
Phone: 406-243-4390, email: mike.mitchell@umontana.edu