

Kendall Becker

Ecology, PhD Student



I am currently working on my PhD in Ecology in the Wildland Resources Department under the advisement of Dr. Jim Lutz. I have a MS in Forest Ecology from the University of Washington and a BS in Applied Physics from Yale University. As part of the Western Forest Initiative lab I research the effects of fire on trees, snags, logs, and seedling regeneration using data from a single, large (25.6 ha) permanent study plot in the Sierra Nevada. I have a particular interest in writing and helping others edit cover letters, resumes, application essays, and grant proposals. My professional experience includes work as an outreach educator, a forest field technician, and a math and science tutor. I am happy to listen to students and discuss their professional and academic options and to provide feedback on their writing.

Kendall's Areas of Specialty

1. Advice on looking for graduate programs
2. Help with editing personal statements for graduate programs
3. Advice on picking a graduate program
4. Help with contacting potential advisors
5. Alternatives to seeking graduate position announcements (NSF and other fellowships)
6. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
7. Help preparing and editing CVs and resumes
8. Advice on interview skills
9. Help with mock presentations or interviews

Contact me!

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Ryan Choi

Wildland Resources, PhD Student



I have a BA in Biology from Whitman College and an MS in Ecology from Utah State. I am currently pursuing my PhD in Dr. Karen Beard's lab, studying the impacts of climate change on ecosystem function in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. My research is focused on how phenology of sub-arctic tundra plants and the seasonal arrival of migratory geese affect nutrient cycling and storage in a sedge-dominated ecosystem. Prior to graduate school, I spent three years working as a field technician on an array of different ecology projects including endangered species conservation, sustainable fisheries management, and wildlife surveys. I would be a suitable tutor for students looking to pursue graduate school or interested in post-graduate careers in the field.

Ryan's Areas of Specialty

1. Advice on looking for graduate programs
2. Help with editing personal statements for graduate programs
3. Advice on picking a graduate program
4. Help with contacting potential advisors
5. Alternatives to seeking graduate position announcements (NSF and other fellowships)
6. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
7. Help with preparing and editing CVs and resumes
8. Advice on looking for summer/post-graduation internships

Contact me!

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Lacy Smith

Wildland Resources & Ecology, PhD Student



I am a second-year PhD student in Wildland Resources/Ecology. Currently, I am working with Dr. Dan MacNulty on the population dynamics and predator-prey interactions of elk in northern Yellowstone National Park. My research is quantitative, not field-based, and I am using new modeling techniques to understand the role of wolves and other predators in changes to the elk population. I have a strong interest in statistics and GIS. Prior to starting my PhD, I worked for the USGS for over seven years researching waterbird populations and wetland habitat management. I completed my BS in wildlife biology at the University of California, Davis as well as an AS degree in GIS at American River College, California.

Lacy's Areas of Specialty

1. Advice on looking for graduate programs
2. Help with editing personal statements for graduate programs
3. Advice on picking a graduate program
4. Help with contacting potential advisors
5. Alternatives to seeking graduate position announcements (NSF and other fellowships)
6. Advice on how to prepare for and what to expect from grad school
7. Help preparing and editing CVs and resumes
8. Advice on interview skills
9. Help with mock presentations or interviews
10. Advice on seeking alternative careers (Americorps, Peace Corps, Conservation Corps, etc.)
11. Advice on looking for summer/post-graduation internships

Contact me!

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