

Gareth Blakemore, M.S.
Biologist

Professional Experience

Mr. Blakemore is a Biologist with 14 years of experience conducting biological work for various federal agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey), non-profit groups and research universities. This work experience, along with his graduate research, was geared towards the research and monitoring of several wildlife taxa as part of a given recovery, research or management program. Monitoring of federally listed and special status species and their habitat was a main focus of Mr. Blakemore's work. In particular he has extensive experience working with special status raptors, conducting biological research in the Great Basin and is familiar with the wildlife and plant species (native and exotic) of the region, water quality and wetland monitoring, NEPA and Endangered Species Act Compliance, leading scientific field crews, conducting aerial surveys of wildlife and mine closure surveys. Mr. Blakemore's unique combination of scientific acumen has provided him with a working knowledge of the ecological stressors on western wildlife and the methods for recognizing, monitoring and mitigating their impacts. Furthermore, Mr. Blakemore is comfortable navigating both the physical and political landscapes of the West and has always pursued close and professional collaboration with State, Federal and Private entities towards accomplishing a common goal.

Education

- M.S., Biology, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, 2018
- B.Sc., Zoology, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California, 2007

Certifications

- B3 Combination Helicopter/Airplane Safety Training
- USFS California spotted owl training (survey and handling protocol)
- USFS Mexican spotted owl training (survey and handling protocol)
- USFS Northern Goshawk training
- Wildlife Necropsy Training (Zoo Miami)
- USFS Mine safety course

Publications

Reeves, M. K., M. Perdue, **G. D. Blakemore**, D. J. Rinella, and M. Holyoak. 2011. Twice as easy to catch? A toxicant and a predator cue cause additive reductions in larval amphibian activity. *Ecosphere* 2: art72

Relevant Graduate Coursework

- GIS I (GEOG 605)
- Remote Sensing: Principles and Application (GEOG 611)
- Compliance with NEPA (NRES 610)
- Landscape Ecology (NRES 775)
- Advanced Analysis Methods in Natural Resources (NRES 746)

Grants, scholarships and awards

- 2018 UNR Graduate Student Association Travel Award, \$500
- 2017 Joint meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Travel Award, \$600
- 2017 American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Gaige Award, \$500
- 2017 UNR Graduate Student Association Travel Award, \$500
- 2017 Kevin D. Freeman Scholarship, \$1,300
- 2016 Diana-Hadley Lynch Scholarship, \$1,200
- 2012 Star (Special Thanks for Achievement) Award; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 2010 Star (Special Thanks for Achievement) Award; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 2007 Certificate of Achievement; U.S. Forest Service
- 2006 Certificate of Achievement; U.S. Forest Service

Work Experience

- **US Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, NV** – *Fisheries Biologist* responsible for conducting field and fish hatchery work in regards to the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Restoration project. Duties included non-native fish removal and fish surveys via electrofishing and gill nets, sorting and spawning broodstock, rearing subsequent eggs and fry to releasable size, floy and PIT tagging, adipose clipping, weir installation and maintenance, snorkel surveys and assisting tribal and state agencies with spawning activities.
- **Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Brighton, CO** – *Mexican Spotted Owl Biologist and Crew Lead* responsible for managing a crew of 4 field technicians towards accomplishing objectives of a pilot study estimating occupancy rates of MSO, on all National Forests of Arizona. Prioritized and scheduled fieldwork, trained crew members in accurate data collection, purchased field equipment and trained crew in their proper use and maintenance. Conducted solo fieldwork (broadcast surveys) by night, which required cross-country navigation through mountainous terrain and adverse weather conditions, conducted nesting surveys and monitored success. Worked closely with federal, state and private entities towards accomplishing project objectives.
- **Florida International University, Miami, FL** – *Fisheries Biologist* with responsibilities in regards to lab goals of understanding: 1) the response of fish communities to key ecosystem drivers, 2) how modified aquatic systems function as habitat for both native and non-native fishes, 3) how natives and non-natives are affected by their novel interactions and 4) fine scale movements and habitat selection of fish. Piloted and maintained 18-foot electrofishing motorboat. Work was conducted on motorboats in remote coastal environments.
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Contaminants Branch, Anchorage, AK** – *Water Quality Crew Lead* with responsibilities in regards to the National Malformed Amphibian Initiative, examining the effects of road-based metal contamination and climate change on the high incidence of malformations in local wood-frog populations. Collected water quality and wildlife data from wetland sites following standardized protocols: surveyed for and captured amphibians, gathered morphometric and health data, swabbed for chytrid fungus, collected environmental chytrid samples, measured water quality parameters with YSI sonde, collected water and soil samples for analysis. Deployed and maintained temperature, conductivity and water level loggers, sediment traps, dust samplers, staff and rain gauges. Prioritized and

scheduled work and training of crew-members, and trained crew in accurate data collection and use of field equipment. Assisted the PI in developing and running a tadpole bioassay which led to a peer-reviewed publication on the effects of copper to tadpole behavior. Worked closely with federal, state and private entities towards accomplishing project objectives.

- **University of Florida, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, Davie, FL – *Wildlife Biologist*** with responsibilities in respect to the American crocodile recovery program, American alligator body condition assessment, Burmese python control program and monitoring the effects of the Deepwater Horizon spill on sea turtles. Conducted aerial surveys (helicopter and fixed wing) for crocodiles and pythons, collected crocodile eggs to assess contaminant load and collaborated with outside entities towards that end, captured crocodilians to assess health and monitor populations, collected water and tissue samples for analysis, navigated to study sites by motorboat and airboat through challenging coastal environments and adverse weather conditions.
- **U.S. Forest Service, Pacific SW Research Station, Chester, CA – *California Spotted Owl Biologist*** with responsibilities in respect to a demographic and monitoring study of the California spotted owl to determine trends in abundance, density, survival and reproductive success. Led a two-person crew to implement surveys in a previously un-surveyed area, assisted supervisor in the planning and implementation of surveys, conducted solo fieldwork (broadcast surveys) by night in mountainous terrain and adverse weather conditions, captured and handled owls to band and assess health, conducted nesting surveys and monitored success.
- **National Park Service, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA – *Aquatic Biologist*** with duties in respect to restoration of aquatic ecosystems via removal of non-native trout from alpine lakes and streams, with an emphasis on Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog recovery. Removed non-native fish with gill nets and backpack electro-fishers, conducted visual encounter amphibian surveys.
- **U.S. Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, Young, AZ – *Wildlife Biologist*** responsible for conducting threatened and endangered species surveys for the Chiricahua leopard frog, Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk in areas of proposed projects and for conducting wildlife mine closure surveys. Aided in the restoration of Chiricahua leopard frog populations by removing non-native species, spearheaded a local leopard frog reintroduction program and worked closely with federal, state and private entities towards that end.