

# Billy Dominguez



Name: Billy Dominguez

Hometown: Chamisal, NM

School: Northern New Mexico College

Major: Biology

Exp. Graduation Date: 05/2017

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About Yourself: I am currently a senior at Northern New Mexico College studying biology and environmental science. I am an aquarist and conservationist. I house endangered or extinct in the wild fishes of Central America. Aside from aquatics, I am very interested in phylogenetic studies and species divergence. I am also an avid hiker, reader of dystopian and post-apocalyptic novels, Pokémon battler, and a fan of almost anything outdoors.

Career Experiences: I completed an internship working with wild hybrid fishes of the *Xiphophorus* genus to study interspecies hybridization in relation to melanoma cancer development with Dr. Gil Rosenthal of Texas A&M University. I worked on a gene knock-out construct involving plant model *Synechococcus* sp. PCC 7220 with Dr. David Fox of LANL to create a cyanobacteria strain capable of producing a profitable amount of isoprenoids. Additionally, I have completing work experience with the biology lab of NNMC, the BLM office of Taos, Lake Abiqui, and the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Plans after Graduation: Upon receiving my BS in Biology, I plan to move on to graduate school and pursue a MS in the field of biology. My ultimate goal is to become a fish biologist with an agency within the United States Department of the Interior.

Skills: I have experience collecting data and samples out on the field as well as running laboratory processes. In the laboratory I am efficient in running a PCR, DNA/RNA extraction, gel electrophoresis, and spectrometry devices. In the field I have experience handling YSI and Hach water and soil sampling instruments, water level loggers, and using species identification keys.

Accomplishments/ Clubs/ other: In affiliation with NNMC, I am the elected treasurer of both the SWNRCT program and the Animal Sciences club. Personal affiliations include the American Livebearer Association and the North American Goodeid Working Group.