

Eliza Montoya



Name: Eliza Montoya

Hometown: Springer, NM

School: New Mexico Highlands University

Major: M.S. Environmental Science and Management

Exp. Graduation Date: May 2017

Email: emontoya2009@gmail.com

About Yourself:

I grew up one hour north of Las Vegas, NM in the small town of Springer. I obtained my B.S. in Biology from New Mexico Highlands University in May 2014. My senior thesis investigated the levels of cattle introgression in bison DNA using the bison herd located at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge located in Watrous, NM. When I am not elbow deep in dirt, rocks and water, I enjoy snowboarding and am a doting mother to my precocious young daughter, Aubrey.

Career Experiences:

In high school, I joined the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp where I helped build a 1.5- mile long walking/running trail and a playground for the community of Cimarron. As an undergraduate, I interned for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a hydrologic technician. During my internship, I measured groundwater well levels, translocated endangered silvery minnows in the Rio Grande, and cared for the pre-release Mexican gray wolves. In March 2014, I started working for the Denver Zoo at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge as the Research and Restoration Intern. I helped with land restoration projects, including building and prepping sites for erosion control and invasive plant control.

Skills:

Microsoft Office, ArcGIS Software, GPS marking and tracking, Non-native species removal, Off-road Vehicle operation, CPR/First Aid certified, Defensive Driving certificate, EPA Watershed Management Training Certificate, Program R, Use of various water analyzing equipment (YSI Sonde, Dionex Ion Chromatography, and turbidimeter).

Accomplishments/ Clubs/ other:

- NRCT Member/Ambassador
- Northern New Mexico Climate Change Corp Member
- Society for Freshwater Science (SFS) Member
- Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Member

Plans after Graduation:

After graduation, I plan on getting a job with the federal or state government that allows me to continue working in the environmental science field. I am driven by educating communities on how important water is and why we should work to preserve and take care of the water sources we have.