

Tatjana Mercado



Name: Tatjana Mercado

Hometown: Sanders, AZ

School: New Mexico State University

Major: Range Science

Exp. Graduation Date: Fall 2018

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About Yourself:

There is no better advice than, “If you take care of the land, the land will take care of you.” For me, the thrill of riding out into a pasture thick with prairie grasses can only be expressed with a huge satisfied grin. My love for cattle and the range was fostered through working at my family’s ranch and working at the Park Service taught me about the fine line between multiple-use and conservation. Currently, my M.S. thesis research involves tracking cattle distribution on rough country and determining if there is a genetic correlation to their behavior.

Career Experiences:

My past experiences include working at Petrified Forest National Park as a volunteer, interpreter, and eventually biologist. I have had many opportunities to experience the difference jobs that are involved with being a public servant. From leading multiple groups of young native American students through the different job opportunities available to them in the Park Service, to riding the trails and following fences as a mounted patrol and executing herpetology and visitor impact surveys in the front and backcountry, I have gained invaluable knowledge and experience that has made me grow both as a member in the work force and as an individual.

Plans after Graduation:

I aspire to show the public that ranchers and farmers can be good stewards of their land and the wildlife through good grazing practices and restoration. Whether it is through research or planning out grazing programs for ranchers, I know that I desire to make a difference and with the help of this graduate program and its research opportunities, I will gain the experience and connections to help this vision to come to pass.

Skills:

Field: livestock handling, horse-back riding & training, vegetation surveys, herpetology surveys, grass ID, implementing Lotek and homemade GPS collars, GPS & Map navigation, hiking, camping,

Computer Software: Microsoft office, ArcGIS, Lotek and IgotU software.

Accomplishments/ Clubs/ other:

Memberships:

Society for Range Management
Graduate Student Association (Animal & Range Dept)

Accomplishments:

Dean’s Award Spring 2016, Crimson Scholar