


Alice Stears

PHD CANDIDATE · DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PROGRAM IN ECOLOGY

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Education

University of Wyoming

PHD, ECOLOGY (4.0/4.0)

- Advisor: Dr. Daniel Laughlin
- Dissertation: "Trait-mediated plant demographic responses to environmental change"

Laramie, WY

September 2017-Present

Williams College

BA, BIOLOGY WITH HONORS (3.6/4.0)

- Advisors: Dr. Luana Maroja and Dr. Joan Edwards
- Honors thesis: "The Effect of Local Climate Change on the Population Ecology and Genetic Landscape of the Arctic Disjunct Plant *Sagina nodosa* on Isle Royale, MI"

Williamstown, MA

September 2011-June 2015

Professional Experience

- 2019-2020 **Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellow**, University of Wyoming
- 2017-2021 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Life Program and Department of Botany, University of Wyoming
- 2016-2017 **Biologist Guide**, Wildlife Expeditions of Teton Science Schools, Jackson, WY
- 2015-2016 **Teacher Naturalist**, Montana Audubon Center, Billings, MT
- 2015 **Field Research Assistant, Plant Evolutionary Biology**, under Anne Marie Panetta, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Gothic, CO
- 2013-2015 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**, Biology Department, Williams College
- 2013 **Undergraduate Research Assistant, Forest Ecology**, under Dr. Hank Art, Biology Department, Williams College

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

- 2020 **Women in Conservation Biology, Ecology, and Education Fellowship**, University of Wyoming Botany and Zoology & Physiology Departments
- 2020 **Dennis H. Knight Graduate Student Fellowship**, University of Wyoming Botany Department
- 2019 **College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Scholar Award**, University of Wyoming
- 2019-2020 **Graduate Research Fellowship**, Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium
- 2019 **Wyoming Native Plant Society Markow Grant**, Wyoming Native Plant Society
- 2019 **Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention**, National Science Foundation
- 2018-2019 **Program in Ecology Teaching Assistantship**, Program in Ecology, University of Wyoming
- 2018 **Ton Damman Award, International Edition, for best student poster at the International Association of Vegetation Science Symposium**, ESA Vegetation Section.
- 2018 **Student Travel Award**, International Association for Vegetation Science
- 2018 **Travel Award**, Department of Botany, University of Wyoming
- 2018, 2019 **HT Northen Summer Fellowship**, Department of Botany, University of Wyoming
- 2018 **Aven Nelson Summer Fellowship in Systematic Botany**, Department of Botany, University of Wyoming
- 2015 **Henry A. Dwight Class of 1829 Botanical Prize for excellence in Botany**, Williams College
- 2011 **Valedictorian of Graduating Class**, Billings Senior High School, Billings MT
- 2011 **National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist**,

Presentations

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

- Stears, A.** 2021. Trait-mediated plant demographic responses to environmental change. Oral Presentation: University of Wyoming Program in Ecology Annual Symposium, Virtual.
- Stears, A.** 2020. Identifying plant traits that predict species-level drought tolerance in western grasslands. Oral Presentation: Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Virtual.
- Stears, A.** 2020. Trait-mediated plant demographic responses to environmental change. Oral Presentation: Botany Departmental Seminar, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.
- Stears, A.** 2019. Updating population models to improve conservation of the rare plant *Oenothera coloradensis*. Oral Presentation: Botany Departmental Seminar, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.
- Stears, A.** 2019. Identifying plant traits that predict species-level drought tolerance in western grasslands. Oral Presentation: Guild of Rocky Mountain Ecologists and Evolutionary Biologists, Gothic, CO.
- Stears, A.** 2019. Identifying plant traits that predict species-level drought tolerance in western grasslands. Oral Presentation: University of Wyoming Program in Ecology Annual Symposium, Laramie, WY.
- Stears, A.** 2018. Plants sit quietly and wait to be dug up!: Identifying plant traits that predict drought tolerance in Western Grasslands. Oral Presentation: Botany Departmental Seminar, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.
- Stears, A., D. Blumenthal, P. Adler, K. Wilcox, J. Kray, T. Ocheltree, and D.C. Laughlin.** 2018. Leaf osmotic potential affects survival rates in response to inter-annual climatic variation in shortgrass prairie. Poster presentation: International Association of Vegetation Scientists Symposium, Bozeman, MT.
- Stears, A.** 2014. Observing the Effects of Climate Change in an Arctic Plant: The Population Ecology and Landscape Genetics of *Sagina nodosa* in Isle Royale National Park. Departmental seminar: Biology Department, Williams College, Williamstown, MA.

Teaching Experience

- Spring 2021 **Computational Biology**, Teaching Assistant
Fall 2018; **Vegetation Ecology**, Teaching Assistant
Fall 2020
Spring
2018; **Animal Biology**, Teaching Assistant
- Spring 2019
Fall 2017 **Plant and Fungal Biology**, Teaching Assistant
- Spring and
Fall 2014 **Field Botany and Plant Natural History**, Teaching Assistant
- Spring 2013 **Intro Biology**, Teaching Assistant

Mentoring

- 2019-2020 **Yvan Somalyay**, Undergraduate Honors Student, University of Wyoming
2018 **Syndney Cannon**, Undergraduate Independent Study Student, University of Wyoming

Outreach & Professional Development

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

- 2018-2021 **Program in Ecology Student Organization**, Secretary (19-20; 20-21); Outreach Committee *University of Wyoming*
(18-19)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Scholarly Writing Techniques Workshop Series, 2020**, A 4-part workshop series through the University of Wyoming Graduate Learning Initiative.

Spatial Data Science Using R, 2019, A three-day workshop at the University of Wyoming on using R statistical software to process and analyze GPS and remotely-sensed data.

NSF Grantsmanship Workshop, 2017, A two-day workshop at the University of Wyoming with former NSF program officer Saran Twombly providing insights and skills practice for the NSF grant-writing process

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Ecological Society of America · International Association for Vegetation Science · Sigma Xi

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Proficient in R, \LaTeX , Overleaf, GitHub, Microsoft Office applications

Wilderness First Responder Certification, NOLS (2018)

American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education Level 1 and 2 Certifications (2018, 2019)