



**BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB
UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS | 2025**





2025 UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

The mission of the Boone and Crockett Club University Programs is to develop of a diverse community of high-impact wildlife conservation leaders.



2025 OVERVIEW

3 ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

29 TOTAL FELLOWS

2 UNDERGRAD

6 MASTERS

13 PHD

8 POSTDOCTORAL

79 PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

15 POPULAR ARTICLES

37 PRESENTATIONS

21 COURSES TAUGHT

\$6,360,000+

TOTAL FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

Our University Programs are supported by a diverse array of funding sources that enable us to leverage Boone and Crockett investments across multiple agencies, foundations, and organizations:

FELLOW TRAVEL
SPONSORED BY



Learn more about the Boone and Crockett Club and our University Programs.

A complete list of program accomplishments, publications, funding sources and a detailed list of former fellows and their research can be found online.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Clemson University

Michigan State University

Oregon State University

Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

University of Montana

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Cover image courtesy of B&C Professional Member and former Fellow Levi Heffelfinger. Researchers from Texas A&M University-Kingsville deploying a GPS collar on a mule deer in Western Oklahoma as part of an ongoing research project. Results from the research will be used to better manage mule deer at the edge of their eastern range.



WWW.BOONE-CROCKETT.ORG

2025 BOONE AND CROCKETT FELLOW OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN GRADUATE RESEARCH

In 2019 the Club established the annual Boone and Crockett Fellow Outstanding Achievement Award to recognize a graduate student whose research advances the Club's mission and informs natural resource management and policy decisions in North America. The award highlights and strengthens the connection between students and the Boone and Crockett Club that supports them.

2025 AWARD WINNER - ALEJANDRA ZUBIRIA PEREZ

Michigan State University

Ph.D. Fisheries and Wildlife - Graduating Fall 2025

THESIS TITLE: Characterizing gray wolf mortality and evaluating its influence on wolf populations in the Great Lakes Region

Alejandra's research as a B&C Fellow has leveraged a database that compiles all wolf data collected in the Great Lakes region to understand wolf mortality. Her first chapter evaluated how harvest mortality in Wisconsin influenced pack reproduction and persistence. Her work contributed to understanding of the indirect effects of mortality by demonstrating that pack persistence and reproduction can remain unchanged if harvest occurs at low levels and at certain times of the year. Her second chapter evaluated cause-specific mortality in the Great Lakes region to identify patterns in incidence and timing of mortality. She found that illegal killing of wolves was the predominant cause of death and was most prevalent during white-tailed deer hunting seasons in the region. Her third chapter is evaluating landscape characteristics associated with different causes of death for wolves. Overall, her research will provide science-based information managers can use to continue developing informed management plans.



MEET ALEJANDRA:

Alejandra was born and raised in Mexico City, where she developed a love for wildlife through documentaries and books. She knew at an early age that she wanted to study wildlife conservation and contribute to our understanding of the environment and the species that we share space with. As she progressed professionally, her interests became more focused on the human-wildlife interface, particularly how humans influence wild animals both directly and indirectly. She has been fortunate enough to find opportunities that have allowed her to explore this and be part of scientific research that can be used to inform wildlife management decisions. She currently works full-time as a Wildlife Biologist for an Indigenous-owned consulting company in north-central British Columbia, Canada, where she looks forward to continuing to produce high-quality research that can be used to guide management.



"The more I do science, the more I realize how little we know, even with the species that are extremely charismatic and get tons of media attention. Everyone knows what a wolf is and has an opinion about wolves and wolf management. [But] we still don't know very much about them at all." -Ale Zubiria Perez



BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

The Boone and Crockett Club's University Programs continue to make significant contributions to wildlife conservation, education, and policy development across seven leading academic institutions. Our programs at Clemson University, Michigan State University, Oregon State University, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, University of Montana, and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point exemplify the Club's commitment to producing the next generation of wildlife professionals equipped with rigorous scientific training, policy expertise, and a deep commitment to the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

Across our University Programs, we are actively training wildlife professionals through research, coursework, and field experience. Our fellows and students engage in projects that span the full spectrum of conservation challenges: from managing hyperabundant wildlife populations and addressing human-wildlife conflicts to understanding wildlife responses to climate change and development pressures. Many of our projects integrate cutting-edge research with direct applications to management decisions and policy outcomes.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Our programs continue to strengthen interdisciplinary approaches to wildlife management. Recognizing that modern conservation challenges require expertise beyond traditional biology, we have expanded opportunities to incorporate law, communications, political science, public administration, energy, agriculture, and forestry into our curricula and research programs. Faculty across our institutions teach policy courses, facilitate policy research projects, and directly train fellows for policy-related work through internships, case study analyses, and involvement with management authorities.

A cornerstone of our educational approach is the integration of hunting as a tool for conservation throughout our curricula and research. At Clemson, all fellow projects are stakeholder-driven and designed to inform management practices and hunting regulations, spanning from quail to black bears. Michigan State University has institutionalized this approach through courses such as "Hunting and Conservation" and research projects where eight of nine fellows have wildlife

harvest as an integral component. The University of Montana's "Wild Sustenance" course, now jointly offered with SUNY and enrolling 45 students annually, teaches college students who have never hunted about hunting, ethics, communication, the North American Model, and the social dimensions of hunting. At Texas A&M-Kingsville, students gain hands-on experience through Delta Waterfowl hunting opportunities and field trips highlighting practical examples of how hunting contributes to ecosystem balance and rural economies.

Our faculty members maintain strong connections with conservation stakeholders and management authorities. They serve on advisory committees for state fish and wildlife departments, participate in task forces addressing emerging wildlife management challenges (such as chronic wasting disease), and work directly with tribal nations on collaborative wildlife management projects. This engagement ensures that our research and teaching remain grounded in real-world conservation priorities.

Research output across our programs remains robust. Our faculty and fellows publish in peer-reviewed journals, contribute popular articles to wildlife magazines and online publications, and present their work at national conferences and professional meetings. Their research addresses fundamental questions in wildlife ecology while providing actionable guidance for management decisions.

Our programs also place strong emphasis on undergraduate education and outreach. Beyond the graduate fellows profiled in our detailed list, undergraduate students participate in research projects, attend workshops on conservation topics, and receive training in field methods and communication skills. Faculty across our institutions contribute to professional development opportunities, including policy bootcamps, leadership trainings, and webinars on emerging conservation topics.

Program leadership at each institution demonstrates deep commitment to alignment with the Club's mission and values. This is reflected in advisory board meetings, regular reporting on fund utilization and leveraging ratios, participation in annual Club meetings, and ongoing dialogue about how research and educational priorities can best serve the Club's strategic goals.



WHAT'S U.P.?

A new feature, What's U.P.? was initiated this year in the Club's e-newsletter to share timely news from B&C Fellows.



UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS RETREAT

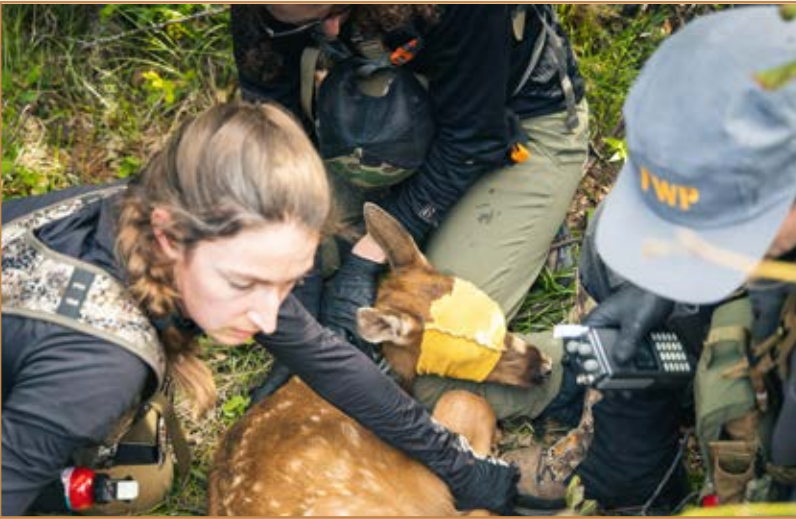
In early June, University Programs held a two-day retreat at the Club's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch in Dupuyer, Montana. Libby Metcalf, interim Dean of Franke College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana, served as facilitator for the 20 participants, which included Regular Club Members, Professional Members, B&C staff, and fellows from three universities. Participants reviewed priorities from the last retreat and chose three priorities to focus on, with an emphasis on action items. Input and guidance from Club leadership was appreciated.

GOALS ESTABLISHED AT THE 2025 RETREAT

Establish and maintain collaborations and communications across programs.

Increase public outreach and visibility for University Programs and the Club.

Create an onboarding package and expectations documents for new fellows and professors.



University Programs fellows met with Club members, Boone and Crockett Club staff, and faculty at the TRM Ranch to discuss future priorities and enjoy the scenery of the east side of the Rocky Mountain front.



THE DEMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

17 YEARS OF NATURAL RESOURCES LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Demmer Scholars Program has been underway since May 2009. A total of 412 undergraduate or graduate students majoring in natural resources, environmental studies, or related fields have participated in the program. Another 30 have been selected for the 2026 cohort. The students come primarily from three Boone and Crockett Club affiliated universities—Michigan State University, Mississippi State University, and the University of Montana.

Over 90 of our Demmer Scholars having finished their academic studies, relocated to Washington, D.C. to start their careers in full-time, professional positions in government or the private sector. Over 70 are still there, including this Administration's Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Budget, and Administration.

The reviews below from members of the 2025 cohort indicate that the program's impacts will continue into the future.

DEMME SCHOLARS PROGRAM TRANSITION

The Demmer Scholars Program will start a transition in 2026 with the addition of two co-directors—Dr. Emily Silver and Ambassador Doug McKalip (Ret). Together with Mark Rey, they will work on intern placements, teach, lead field trips, and mentor students.

Dr. Silver presently serves as an Associate Professor of Natural Resource Social Science and Associate Chairperson and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University. She has also worked in the US Forest Service Research Branch. Ambassador McKalip recently retired after 31 years of federal government service at the Department of Agriculture, the White House and, most recently, as the Deputy US Trade Representative for Agriculture and Natural Resources. After the 2026 session is complete, Dr. Silver and Ambassador McKalip will continue as co-directors of the Demmer Scholars Program for 2027 and beyond.



Mark Rey helped found the Demmers Scholars Program in 2009.
BELOW: The 2025 Cohort.

“Working on the Senate Agriculture Committee was the quickest learning process to understanding how Congress functions. While my tasks did not change through my internship, the atmosphere of the office shifted as the Senate went into the Reconciliation Process. Staff worked longer hours, phones frequently rang, and when Parliamentarians called, we made binders and met staffers in the elevators to hand them over. Watching this process felt like a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”



Jaiden Stansberry
University of Montana

“The multifaceted nature of conservation policy-making is something I did not believe I would be able to comprehend over the summer. Nevertheless, I still consider myself a ‘conservation novice,’ and I am just now starting to understand it. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies showed me how to further appreciate the process of conservation policy creation, and how important state agency representation is. My time at AFWA wasn't simply a general internship, but rather an incomparable professional experience that redefined my knowledge of conservation.”



Peyton Allen
Michigan State University






“This summer I have had the privilege of working as an intern in Senator Cindy Hyde Smith's Washington, DC office. I had the opportunity to do everything from writing memos, to walking right by United States Vice President, J.D. Vance, to answering constituent calls, and grabbing coffee with Senior staff. My experience as an intern for Senator Hyde-Smith's office this summer has been invaluable for my personal development, my career and my future. It is something for which I will be grateful for the rest of my life.”

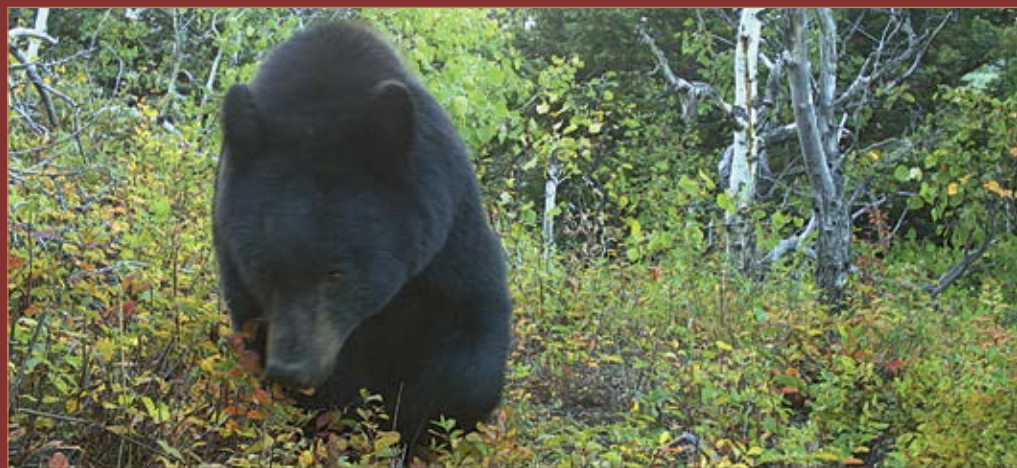


Georgia Neill
Mississippi State University



2025 UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS FELLOWS

	FELLOW NAME	DEGREE	EXPECTED COMPLETION	PROJECT TITLE
	Jenna Krugler	Ph.D.	2028	Management of North America's most important furbearer: the beaver
	Percy Marshall	Ph.D.	2027	Managing habitat for bobwhite
	John Nettles	Ph.D.	2027	Estimating black bear abundance in the upstate of South Carolina
	Mark Bell	Postdoc	2025 (completed)	Management alternatives for hyperabundant white-tailed deer in lower Michigan
	Merijn van den Bosch	Postdoc	2027	Great Lakes wolf ecology and management
	Grace DeRidder	BS	2026	Valuation of recreational wildlife harvests in Michigan
	Jacob Hill	Postdoc	2027	Effects of sport hunting and subsistence use on global mammal conservation
	David Mason	Postdoc	2025 (completed)	Management alternatives for hyperabundant white-tailed deer in lower Michigan
	Matt Nelson	Ph.D.	2027	Estimating wolf and white-tailed deer abundance using remote cameras
	Jamshid Parchizadeh	Ph.D.	2025 (completed)	Harvest management of Kodiak brown bears
	Alejandra Zubiria Perez	Ph.D.	2025 (completed)	Survival and cause-specific mortality of wolves in the western Great Lakes
	Sarah Schooler	Postdoc	2026	Effects of baiting on black bear demographics
	Chloe Nouzille	PhD	December 2027	Mountain Lion Movements and Ecology in South Texas
	Daniel Bird	Ph.D.	Spring 2026	Elk migration on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation
	Sattie Fischer	M.S.	Spring 2026	Horses and elk, Yakama Nation
	Christopher Hansen	Postdoc	2025 (completed)	Elk dynamics in relation to carnivore management in Montana
	Jordan Heiman	M.S.	2025 (completed)	Power of variable effort wildlife surveys
	Holli Holmes	M.S.	2025 (completed)	Harlequin duck populations in Glacier National Park
	Cody Lane	M.S.	2025 (completed)	Wildlife response following wildfire in mixed conifer-aspen forests in Wyoming
	Landon Magee	Ph.D.	Spring 2029	Moose abundance and calf survival on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation
	Molly McDevitt	Ph.D.	2025 (completed)	Pronghorn survival and movements in Montana and South Dakota
	Dan Morina	Ph.D.	Spring 2026	Elk response to oil development in North Dakota
	Marco Salvo	M.S.	Fall 2025	Avian radar applications in South Dakota
	Wesley Sarmiento	Ph.D.	Spring 2029	Bison reintroduction on the Blackfeet Reservation
	Andi Stewart	Ph.D.	Spring 2027	Elk dynamics in relation to carnivore management in Montana
	Sean Sultaire	Postdoc	Ongoing	Mule deer dynamics in Nevada
	Chloe Wright	Postdoc	Ongoing	Elk and deer survival and habitat relationships
	Madelyn Slaven	B.S.	May 2027	The Use of Autonomous Recording Devices to Detect Secretive Marsh Birds
	Hayden Walkush	M.S.	May 2026	Movement Ecology of Black Bears



These trailcam photos from the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch in Dupuyer, Montana, are part of on-going research at the ranch started by former fellow Chris Hansen and will continue with University of Montana fellow Wesley Sarmento.



TRAIL CAM PHOTOS ©2025 THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

