

# EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

*The Boone and Crockett Club University Programs is designed to provide science-based knowledge from seasoned wildlife professionals and educators to college graduates in the wildlife field to better prepare the graduates for the responsible and wise management of wildlife in the future.*

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## FROM: B&C Fellows at the 87th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

At the Boone and Crockett Club's 2022 Spring meeting, in conjunction with the Wildlife Management Institute's 87th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Spokane, Washington, four of our B&C University Programs Fellows presented at the luncheon on Thursday, March 17.

One of the presenters was 2021 Outstanding Boone and Crockett Fellow Award winner Ellen Pero of the University of Montana. Ellen presented research from her dissertation, "Integrated Ecology of a Reintroduction: Management of Restored Elk in Missouri."

Growing up, Ellen spent summers on the lake and in the woods of Michigan, developing an eagerness to spend her life working with and for the natural world. She received her bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University and her master's degree from the University of Manitoba, where she studied the behavioral ecology of a threatened ground squirrel. At the University of Montana, Ellen is focusing on how elk population dynamics, physiological stress, movement and resource selection, and reproductive behavior interact and progress following reintroduction to a new landscape. Ellen aims to obtain a research biologist position with a state or federal agency where her work can inform wildlife management, conservation, and policy. ■



A group photo of the presenting B&C Fellows along with their advisors. LEFT TO RIGHT: B&C Professional Member and Boone and Crockett Club Professor of Wildlife Conservation at the University of Montana, Josh Millsbaugh; B&C Fellow Jonathan Karlen; B&C Fellow Noelle Thompson; B&C Fellow and 2021 Outstanding Boone and Crockett Fellow Award winner Ellen Pero; B&C Fellow Charlie Booher; B&C Professional Member and Interim Director of the Boone and Crockett Quantitative Wildlife Center at Michigan State University, David Williams.



After receiving her award, Ellen presented her research titled, "All in due time: Multi-trait assessment of elk response to translocation."



**NOELLE THOMPSON**  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**PH.D. STUDENT**

**Equipping the Honest Broker: A New Frontier for Assessing CWD Policy and Management**

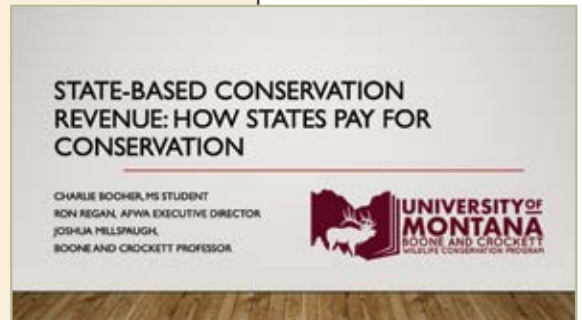
Noelle grew up in the Chicagoland area, which provided her the opportunity to assist with various wildlife research projects occurring within the region's many forest preserves. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and their chronic wasting disease (CWD) lab. For her MS, she assessed the effects of a long-term deer management program on deer habitat use, spatial structure, and potential disease spread. Noelle's doctoral project focuses on building a model that projects indirect and direct transmission of CWD across space and time. She is using this model as a tool to assess fine-scale management strategies that can be implemented by state agencies. In 2021, as she completes her dissertation writing, Noelle took a job as the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' wildlife disease biologist.



**CHARLIE BOOHER**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA**  
**M.S. & MPA STUDENT**

**State-Based Conservation Revenue: How States Pay for Conservation**

Charlie Booher is currently pursuing an M.S. in wildlife biology, a master's in public administration, and a certificate in natural resource conflict resolution at the University of Montana as a Fellow in the Boone and Crockett Wildlife Conservation Program. He holds degrees in fisheries and wildlife conservation (B.S.) and public policy (B.A.) from Michigan State University and is a consultant at Watershed Results who works on behalf of several clients to improve conservation policy for the 21st century. Charlie has previously served in communications and government relations roles for The Wildlife Society, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and Michigan United Conservation Clubs and worked in the Executive Office of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department on state wildlife research, management, and governance issues. Charlie is an Associate Wildlife Biologist®. Outside of the office, you can find Charlie hiking in the mountains of western Montana and re-learning how to hunt and fish in the Northern Rockies.



**JONATHAN KARLEN**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA**  
**MPA STUDENT**

**Passing Legislation to Make Hunting Accessible to College Students in Montana and Beyond**

Jonathan is a Boone and Crockett Club Wildlife Conservation Fellow at the University of Montana (UM). He has served as a William A. Demmer Scholar with the Congressional Affairs Office of the U.S. Forest Service, a Max Baucus Leader with the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, was appointed by the Missoula City Council to the Energy and Climate Team, and is a candidate for the Montana State Legislature. Jonathan earned a B.S. in wildlife biology with a minor in climate change studies from UM in 2021 and will complete a master's in public administration (public policy concentration) in spring 2022. He is beginning a master's in wildlife biology with the UM Boone and Crockett Program focused on evaluating policies related to the North American Model of Conservation.



Learn more about the B&C Fellows.