

# Anna Nellis B. Smith

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## ACADEMIC RECORD

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### Master of Fine Arts (MFA)

Candidate

Creative Nonfiction and Environment & Natural Resources (Dual Degree)  
University of Wyoming, Wyoming

- GPA 4.0 | An MFA is a recognized, terminal degree (PhD-equivalent) according to the Higher Learning Commission.

### Bachelor of Arts (BA)

December 2013

Arts & Letters and Environmental Studies (Double Major)  
Prescott College, Arizona

- Major: Arts & Letters
  - Senior Project: *Writing Home: An Anthology of Home and Place*.  
Nonfiction Advisor: Melanie Bishop; Poetry Advisor: Sheila Sanderson.
- Major: Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Conservation Biology
  - Senior Project: *Maine Waters: Conservation of Marine and Freshwater Communities*. Thesis Advisor: Thomas Lowe Fleischner.
- GPA 3.98

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Mahoney, S. M., A. N. Smith, P. J. Motyka, E. J. Lundgren, M. J. Johnson, R. R. Winton, L. Jamison, and B. Stevens. 2019. Russian olive habitat along an arid river supports fewer birds species, functional groups and a different species composition relative to mixed vegetation habitats. *Journal of Arid Environments* 167: 26-33  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaridenv.2019.04.018>

## NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

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Smith, A. N. and B. G. Merkle. 2020. Meaning-Making in Science Communication: A Case for Precision in Word Choice. *The Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 00(00):e01794 <https://doi.org/10.1002/bes2.1794>

## POPULAR SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS

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Nell Smith. "Four garter snake species call Wyoming home." *Barnyards & Backyards*, Fall 2020

## LITERARY PUBLICATIONS

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### ESSAYS

Nell Smith. 2020. "What Happened on December 21st, 2019: A Retrospective." *Essay Daily*, May 4, 2020.

### POEMS

Nell Smith. 2019. "Lunar Eclipse off Exit 88" and "What Gould's Magpie Has Stolen." *Minding Nature*, Spring Vol. 12, No. 2.

- Nell Smith.** 2019. “Contemplating Shells: Plate 12 from William H. Emory’s Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey (1848-1855).” *Thin Air Magazine*, Vol. 25.
- Nell Smith.** 2019. “This Ground.” *Vagabond City*, Issue 37, January 15.
- Nell Smith.** 2018. “Tidal Desert.” *Hawk & Whippoorwill*, New Series #6 Winter Vol. 3 No. 2.
- Nell Smith.** 2018. “Mudsoft, Hardtack.” *Sky Island Journal*, Issue #6 Fall.
- Nell Smith.** 2018. “Ode to a Rock Dove.” *Entropy: The Birds*, October 3 2018.
- Nell Smith.** 2018. “Grafting.” *the Aureorean*, Spring/Summer Issue.
- Nell Smith.** 2015. National Writing Contest Finalist: “To Combat Loneliness.” *Alligator Juniper*, 2015 Issue.

### CHAPBOOKS

- Nell Smith.** 2014. “A Delicate History of Fractures.” Self-published with limited distribution as part of my undergraduate senior project. (OOP)

### WORKSHOPS & AWARDS

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- 2021: Orion Online Environmental Writers’ Workshop with Pam Houston
- 2019: University of Wyoming’s MFA Program in Creative Writing (2019-2021), one of four admitted out of ~250 applicants with full funding.
- 2015: Finalist, *Alligator Juniper*’s National Poetry Contest: “To Combat Loneliness”
2012. Honorable Mention, *Alligator Juniper*’s Suzanne Tito Student Fiction Contest: “Good Dog.”

### AUDIO & VISUAL MEDIA

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- Nell Smith.** 2021. *Orion Magazine*, forthcoming (photography)
- Nell Smith.** 2018. *The Fourth River*, Digital Issue 0.5 (photography)
- Nell Smith.** 2016-2017. the *Telepoem Booth*. Four poems included in the directory of the public art piece, the Telepoem Booth, a 1970s phone booth that one can dial-a-poem. Recorded and produced by Elizabeth Hellstern. Exhibited in three locations Mar. 2016–Oct. 2017. For more information visit [telepoembooth.com](http://telepoembooth.com).

### PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

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- Anna Nellis Smith.** 2020. Russian olive habitat along an arid river supports fewer bird species, functional groups and a different species composition relative to mixed vegetation habitats. Poster for the North American Ornithological Conference.
- Anna Nellis Smith.** 2012. One island, two nations: deforestation in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Conservation Biology Symposium Presentation at Prescott College, Prescott, AZ.

### PUBLIC READINGS & LITERARY EVENTS

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- Nell Smith.** September 17, 2020. University of Wyoming MFA Program Reading Series, virtual.
- Nell Smith.** February 27, 2020. University of Wyoming MFA Program Reading Series, Night Heron Books & Coffeehouse, Laramie, WY.

**Nell Smith.** May 7, 2015. Alligator Juniper Literary Magazine Launch Event, Peregrine Bookstore, Prescott, AZ.

**Nell Smith.** May, 2015. Alligator Juniper Literary Magazine Launch Event. Prescott College, Prescott, AZ.

## **INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS**

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**Zeke Smith & Nell Smith.** 2019. Stratton & Bluff Islands Annual Update. Prouts Neck Audubon Society Meeting, Prouts Neck, ME.

**Anna Nellis Smith.** 2013. Senior Project for Arts & Letters: A Delicate History of Fractures. Baccalaureate Ceremony Speaker, Prescott College, Prescott, AZ.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICE**

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### **LEADERSHIP ROLES**

2020–Present. Secretary. *Graduate Student Network*, University of Wyoming.

### **EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS**

2020–Present. Assistant Editor. *Real Ground Journal*, a community conversation curated by the Natural History Institute.

2018–2019. Creative Nonfiction & Poetry Reader. *Longleaf Review*, online.

2012. Creative Nonfiction & Poetry Reader. *Alligator Juniper Literary Magazine*, Prescott, AZ.

### **ADDITIONAL EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

2020. National Poetry Juror. *Scholastic Art & Writing Award*.

2019: Editorial Assistance. *HumaNature Podcast* from Wyoming Public Media.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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Association for the Study of Literature & Environment (since 2018); Association of Writers & Writing Programs (since 2019); Laramie Audubon Society (since 2019); Natural Resources Council of Maine (since 2014)

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

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2020. \$750. University of Wyoming, H. G. Merriam Award for Creative Work in the Humanities. “Fieldwork: Field Biology as a Creative Practice.” Initial funding goal: \$500. Funds raised: \$750.

2020. \$1,000. University of Wyoming, Haub Student Research and Creative Activities Grant. “Fieldwork: Field Biology as a Creative Practice.” Initial funding goal: \$920. Funds raised: \$1,000.

2014. \$1,468. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award.

2013. \$92.96. Prescott College Student Union Board Senior Project Grant. Funding granted: \$1,162. Funds used: \$92.96.

2010–2013. Prescott College Environmental & Social Justice Scholarship.

2010–2013. Prescott College John W. Powell Scholarship.

## TEACHING & MENTORING

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### COURSES TAUGHT

**ENV 2000-01: Environment & Society.** University of Wyoming, Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources.

Spring 2021 | Lead Instructor | 25 Students | 3 Credits

Lead instructor for an undergraduate course tracking the history of environmental thought and attitudes. In this course, students explore ways in which elements of society approach, evaluate, and develop positions relative to environmental issues. Responsibilities included course design and curriculum development; technology management; group facilitation; grading and providing informal feedback and formal assessments; accounting for various learning styles, interests and backgrounds simultaneously; facilitating student development of and skills in close reading, critical thinking and articulate writing; editing; interpersonal and supervisory skills; student coaching and conferencing; study of, engagement with, and implementation of the field of writing studies, pedagogy, and associated best practices. Taught online.

**ENV 2000-02: Environment & Society.** University of Wyoming, Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources.

Fall 2020 | Teaching Assistant | 24 Students | 3 Credits

Teaching Assistant for an undergraduate course tracking the history of environmental thought and attitudes. In this course, students explore ways in which elements of society approach, evaluate, and develop positions relative to environmental issues. Responsibilities included course planning, technology management, group facilitation, grading and providing informal feedback and assessments, and conferencing with students. Taught online.

**ENG 1010-04: Composition and Rhetoric.** University of Wyoming, English Department.

Spring 2020 | Lead Instructor | 20 Students | 3 Credits

Lead instructor for undergraduate composition course emphasizing expository writing, analytical reading, and academic and civic argumentation in a range of print, oral, and digital genres. Taught in-person before swiftly pivoting to online learning due to COVID-19 midway through the semester with increased efforts towards mentoring and student emotional support. See ENG 1010-34 below for more detailed responsibilities.

**ENG 1010-34: Composition and Rhetoric.** University of Wyoming, English Department.

Fall 2019 | Lead Instructor | 21 Students | 3 Credits

Lead instructor for undergraduate composition course emphasizing expository writing, analytical reading, and academic and civic argumentation in a range of print, oral, and digital genres. Responsibilities included lesson planning; classroom management; discussion facilitation; student motivation and research skills coaching; editing; accounting for various learning styles, interests and backgrounds simultaneously; interpersonal and supervisory skills; grading and providing informal feedback and assessments; facilitating student development of critical thinking skills; enhancing student appreciation of and skills in close reading, critical thinking and articulate writing when engaging with texts in a range of genres; course design and curriculum

development; study of, engagement with, and implementation of the field of writing studies, pedagogy, and associated best practices.

**ENV 42741: Coastal Ecology of the Gulf of California.** Prescott College, Environmental Studies and Sustainability Department.

Winter Block 2019 | Field Assistant | 8 Students | 4 UD Credits

Responsibilities included group facilitation, student mentoring, food planning, driving a 15-passenger van with trailer, managing logistics while traveling to and from Sonora, Mexico, and coordinating with other researchers and instructors at the Kino Bay Center for Cultural & Ecological Studies.

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

2013–2014. **Writing Consultant** | Prescott College Writing Center | Prescott, AZ.

Facilitated productive and client-oriented sessions as a peer tutor. Assisted undergraduate and masters students' progress in academia and business through one-on-one coaching sessions.

2014. **Ropes Facilitator** | Chapel Rock Aspen Creek Outdoor School | Prescott, AZ.

Organized, coached and belayed groups of 8-12 elementary and middle school students on a climbing wall, facilitating personal empowerment through challenge by choice. Led safety and technique demonstrations.

2013; 2014. **Environmental Educator** | Prescott Creeks & Watershed Program | Prescott, AZ.

Developed and taught curriculum as a lead instructor for the semester-long riparian component of two local schools' 5th grade environmental education program. Taught specialized sessions on creative expression in nature and Leave-No-Trace during the culminating three-day residential camp.

2008–2014. **Profession Crew** | Ocean Classroom Foundation

Professional crew member for non-profit educational programs focused on experiential, place-based learning on board traditionally-rigged tall ships. Promoted from Deckhand to 3rd Mate in 2012 then 2nd Mate in 2014 with additional leadership responsibilities of running a watch under the captain's orders including navigation, sail planning, risk assessment, weather analysis, log keeping and all other operations of the ship. Taught the shipboard operations listed above to students and volunteers of all ages during full-participatory programs up to four months in length. Additional roles included: **Boatswain, Safety Officer and Medical Officer.**

### **NOTABLE INFORMAL TEACHING & OUTREACH**

2020. **Invited.** Guest speaker, "Modes: Writing Animals." University Honors Program, University of Wyoming.

### **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

2020. Course Design: "Introduction to Memoir through the Personal Essay," an online Summer short course. University of Wyoming, English Department.

## **CERTIFICATIONS, LICENSES & TRAININGS**

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2019. NSC Defensive Driving Course 9th Edition.  
2018. Mexican Spotted Owl Survey Training, U.S. Fish & Wildlife.  
2016. Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Survey Training, U.S. Fish & Wildlife.  
2016. Arctic Field Training, CH2M Hill Polar Services.  
2016. Chemical Hygiene Training, Northern Arizona University  
2014. National Park Service Operational Training.  
2014. Budding Botanist Training.  
2009–2020. Limited Masters License for Sector Northern New England, United States Coast Guard.  
2009–2020. Ordinary Seaman Merchant Mariner’s Document, United States Coast Guard.  
2009–2020. Transportation Workers Identification Credential, Transportation Security Administration.  
2012–2018. Level One Fingerprint Clearance, State of Arizona.  
2008–2016. CPR/First Aid, American Heart Association  
2012. Wildlife Techniques Workshop, Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & SOFTWARE SKILLS**

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Adobe (Photoshop); Google (Calendar, Docs/Drive, Groups); Mac (Pages, Numbers, Keynote, Photos), Microsoft Office (Access, Audition, Excel, Outlook, Power Point, Word); Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Twitter); Other (ArcGIS, Audacity; Canvas, Dropbox, EndNote X7, Garmin, MadMimi, Mendeley, Opal, Padlet, Scrivner, Skype, TeamViewer, WordPress, Zoom)

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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**Laboratory Research Techniques** (Chemical hygiene; Data entry & management; Sample processing including sorting, shipping, weighing, grinding, and rolling), **Outdoor Proficiency** (Backcountry Camping; Backpacking; Basic firefighting; Celestial navigation; GPS operation & management; Leave No Trace; Boat handling & seamanship, including powerboat, rowing, sailing, sea kayaking, and whitewater rafting), **Vegetation & Soil Techniques** (Data entry & management; Hand tool usage; Herbarium collection & processing; Herbicide mixing & application; Jornada soil stability test kit usage; Motorized water tank trailering & operation; Phenology monitoring; Plant propagation & seed treatments; Soil & permafrost coring; Taxonomic keying; Pruning & hazardous tree management; Vegetation data collection including cover estimations by functional groups & forest-structure attributes, and measurements of basal gaps, canopy closure, ground cover; Vegetation sampling using nested quadrats), **Wildlife Techniques** (Band resighting; Call-playback bird surveying; Census protocols; Data entry & management; Dart-gun usage; Ethograms; Insect sampling; Metamorphic data collection; Nest searching & monitoring; Photo-trapping; Productivity monitoring; Radio Telemetry; Rifle usage, maintenance, & safety; Seabird feeding studies & fish identification; Seabird trapping, handling & banding; VCP point counts), **Web Design, Research & Communication** (Boolean searching & operators, HTML basics, reference library management, SEO basics), **Other** (4WD vehicle operation, Barbed-wire fence repair; Community science data collection; Construction

experience including caulking, insulating, plastering, & woodworking; Boat and engine maintenance; Trailering; Trail maintenance; VHF radio operation).

## **SELECT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

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### **Associate Producer**

**Sept 2019 - May 2020**

*Wyoming Public Media, Laramie, WY*

Interned for Wyoming Public Radio to write and produce a podcast episode from conception to post-production. Participated in brainstorming sessions and editing sessions; gave and received editorial feedback; contacted and interviewed subjects; and recorded and edited audio.

### **Avian Research Technician**

**May 2019 - Aug 2019**

*Project Puffin, Stratton Island, ME*

Monitored and supported the nesting colonies of four tern species and other waterbirds on a remote 23-acre island in Southern Maine. Collected productivity, metamorphic, banding resighting and census data; supported island setup; controlled invasive species; and conducted routine maintenance on structures, trails, rifles, and other equipment. Operated our 115-horse power launch boat in various weather conditions and assisted in training other island technicians and volunteers.

### **Avian Research Technician**

**Dec 2018 – May 2019**

*Central Arizona—Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research Program, Tempe, AZ*

Conducted standardized point-count protocol, identifying species by sight and sound to monitor the bird population in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area and surrounding Sonoran desert region.

### **Avian & Vegetation Field Technician**

**April 2017 – Nov 2018 (seasonally)**

*Southern Colorado Plateau Network, Flagstaff, AZ*

Deepened my knowledge of Southwestern flora and fauna, collecting breeding bird and upland vegetation data for the Park Service's long-term inventory & monitoring program. Worked, camped and backpacked in grassland, riparian, pinyon-juniper and mixed conifer woodland habitats throughout the Four Corners region of the Southwest.

### **Avian Field Technician**

**May 2016 – Aug 2018 (seasonally)**

*Colorado Plateau Research Station, Flagstaff, AZ*

Surveyed for endangered Southwestern willow flycatchers and yellow-billed cuckoos in remote backcountry habitat along two major rivers in Arizona and Utah. Accessed 102 miles of habitat along the San Juan River by whitewater raft, living and working in the backcountry for up to ten days at a time.

### **Outreach & Marketing Assistant**

**Jan 2015 – Dec 2017**

*Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Flagstaff, AZ*

Managed all sales and revenue databases for Dr. Larry Stevens' Colorado River guidebook. Wrote content for website and newsletters, and managed social media platforms. Coordinated field logistics between multiple agencies and organizations and



worked with volunteers on restoration projects. Tabled at advocacy events & conferences and managed fee transactions.

**Lab & Field Technician**

**Nov 2014 – Apr 2017 (seasonally)**

*Center for Ecosystem Science & Society, Flagstaff, AZ*

Processed lab samples for tests relating to long-term ecological monitoring projects in Alaska, South Africa and China. Assisted in harvesting nitrogen-labeled soil and permafrost cores, collected data on tussock density, worked as “tundra plucker” at field sites in Toolik and Healy, Alaska.

**Location Scout & Set Assistant**

**Oct 2016**

*Robert Adamo Photography, Flagstaff, AZ*

Scouted locations and assisted with permitting, wardrobe and general set support for photoshoot at Walnut Canyon National Monument.

**Vegetation Management Intern**

**Apr 2014 - Oct 2014**

*American Conservation Experience / National Park Service, Grand Canyon Village, AZ*

Worked in all areas of native plant restoration, propagation, seed collection, invasive species control and hazardous tree management on the rim and in the inner canyon of Grand Canyon National Park.