

# Anna Nellis Smith

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## ACADEMIC RECORD

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### Master of Fine Arts (MFA)

December 2021

Creative Nonfiction and Environment & Natural Resources (Joint 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 bird 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. 2021. Meaning-Making in Science Communication: A Case for Precision in Word Choice. *The Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 102(1):  
<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 & CONTESTS

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### ESSAYS

"The House in the Desert." *Hobart*, Dec. 28, 2021.

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

### POEMS

"Ipomoea arborescens." *Monologging*, Visibility Issue, 2021.

- “Lunar Eclipse off Exit 88” and “What Gould’s Magpie Has Stolen.” *Minding Nature*, Spring Vol. 12, No. 2. 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. 2019.
- “This Ground.” *Vagabond City*, Issue 37, January 15, 2019.
- “Tidal Desert.” *Hawk & Whippoorwill*, New Series #6 Winter Vol. 3 No. 2. 2018.
- “Mudsoft, Hardtack.” *Sky Island Journal*, Issue #6 Fall 2018.
- “Ode to a Rock Dove.” *Entropy: The Birds*, October 3 2018.
- “Grafting.” *the Aurean*, Spring/Summer Issue 2018.
- “To Combat Loneliness.” *Alligator Juniper*, National Writing Contest Finalist. 2015 Issue.

## **AUDIO & VISUAL MEDIA**

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2021. *Orion Magazine*, Murmuration Section, Spring 2021 Issue (photography)
2018. *The Fourth River*, Digital Issue 0.5 (photography)
- 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.

## **SYMPOSIA / INVITED LECTURES / PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS / PUBLIC READINGS**

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### **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS**

- Smith, A. N.** 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.
- Smith, A. N.** 2012. One island, two nations: deforestation in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Conservation Biology Symposium Presentation at Prescott College, Prescott, AZ.

### **LECTURES, TALKS, & PRESENTATIONS**

2021. Invited. Guest writer for UHP 3153: “Modes: Writing Animals.” University Honors Program, University of Wyoming.
2020. Invited. Guest writer for UHP 3153: “Modes: Writing Animals.” University Honors Program, University of Wyoming.
2019. Co-presenter. Stratton & Bluff Islands Annual Update. Prouts Neck Audubon Society Meeting, Prouts Neck, ME.
2013. Invited. Baccalaureate Ceremony Speaker for the Arts & Letters graduating class, “Senior Project: A Delicate History of Fractures.” Prescott College, Prescott, AZ.

### **PUBLIC READINGS & LITERARY EVENTS**

- Laramie Audubon Society Reading in the Park. October 3, 2021, Laramie, WY.
- University of Wyoming MFA Program Thesis Reading. May 13, 2021, remote.
- 5x5 Reading Series. February 19, 2021, remote.
- University of Wyoming MFA Program Reading Series. September 17, 2020, remote.

University of Wyoming MFA Program Reading Series. February 27, 2020, Night Heron Books & Coffeehouse, Laramie, WY.

Invited writer. Alligator Juniper Literary Magazine Launch Event. May 7, 2015, Peregrine Bookstore, Prescott, AZ.

Invited writer. Alligator Juniper Literary Magazine Launch Event. 2012, Prescott College, Prescott, AZ.

### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

Piccone, A. Words Matter For Scientists—Here's Why. *Wyoming Public Radio*. March 19, 2021. ([Link](#))

Miller, C. Meet the first years: Part 2. *Creative Writing @ the University of Wyoming student blog*. February 26, 2020. ([Link](#))

Miller, C. Meet the first years: Part 1. *Creative Writing @ the University of Wyoming student blog*. February 5, 2020. ([Link](#))

## **TEACHING & MENTORING**

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### **COURSES TAUGHT**

**ENR 2000: Environment & Society.** University of Wyoming, Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources.

*Fall 2021 | Lead Instructor | 24 Students | In-Person | 3 Credits*

*Spring 2021 | Lead Instructor | 24 Students | Online Synchronous | 3 Credits*

*Fall 2020 | Teaching Assistant | 24 Students | Online Synchronous | 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.

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

*Spring 2020 | Lead Instructor | 20 Students | In-Person & Online Asynchronous | 3 Credits*

*Fall 2019 | Lead Instructor | 21 Students | In-Person | 3 Credits*

Lead instructor for freshman 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. Taught in-person before swiftly pivoting to online learning in 2020 due to COVID-19 midway through the semester with increased efforts towards mentoring and student emotional support.

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

*Winter Block 2019 | Field Assistant | 8 Students | 4 Credits (Upper Division)*

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.

### **WORKSHOPS & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

2020. Course designer. “Introduction to Memoir through the Personal Essay,” an online Summer short course. University of Wyoming, Department of English.

2014. Co-organizer, developer and lead instructor for middle school environmental education curriculum. Prescott Creeks & Watershed Program, Prescott, AZ.

2011. Course designer and lead instructor for a 6-part experiential education workshop. “Marlinspike Seamanship: Ditty Bags.” Ocean Classroom Foundation.

### **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.

2010: **Student Teaching Assistant** | Miller Valley Elementary School | Prescott, AZ.

Developed and taught mathematics lessons for the 2nd grade schoolyard habitat program.

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**.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICE**

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### **LEADERSHIP ROLES**

2020–2021. Secretary. *Graduate Student Network*, University of Wyoming.

### **EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS**

2020–2021. Assistant Editor. *Real Ground Journal*, a community conversation curated by the Natural History Institute.

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

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

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

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

## **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.

2019: University of Wyoming’s MFA Program in Creative Writing (2019-2021), one of four admitted out of ~250 applicants with full funding.

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

2013. Prescott College Student Union Board Senior Project Grant. Total funding granted: \$1,162.

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

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

## **CERTIFICATIONS, LICENSES & TRAININGS**

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2021. Social & Behavioral Research Course, CITI Program.

2021. Oral History Workshop, University of Wyoming.

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); Research & Data Management (ArcGIS, Dedoose, EndNote X7, Garmin, Mendeley); Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Twitter); Other (Audacity; Canvas, Dropbox, MadMimi, Opal, Padlet, Scrivener, Skype, ArcGIS StoryMaps, TeamViewer, Wix, 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), **Research & Communication** (Boolean searching & operators; Copywriting, HTML basics, Mental Modeling, Reference library management; SEO Optimization; Qualitative research methods, Systems diagramming; Web accessibility; Web design), **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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**Research Assistant**

*Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources, Laramie, WY*

**July 2021 - Present**

Guided a team of transdisciplinary researchers in creating mental models of how they conceive of water availability and impacts in Wyoming to assess how the co-production of integrated models might improve the accuracy and integrity of social-environmental systems models. Co-developed research questions and methods; guided participants in creating mental models; scheduled and conducted interviews; and coded and analyzed qualitative data.

**Avian Research Technician** **Dec 2018 – May 2019; Dec 2021 – present**  
*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.

**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. Collected productivity, metamorphic, banding re-sighting and census data; supported island setup; controlled invasive species; conducted routine maintenance on structures, trails, rifles, and other equipment; operated 115-horse power launch boat and rowing dinghy in various weather conditions; trained other island technicians and volunteers in island operations.

**Avian & Vegetation Technician (seasonal)** **April 2017 – Nov 2018**  
*Southern Colorado Plateau Network, Flagstaff, AZ*

Collected 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 (seasonal)** **May 2016 – Aug 2018**  
*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** (seasonal)

**Nov 2014 – Apr 2017**

*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.

**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.

**Second Mate / Deck Educator** (seasonal)

**May 2008 – Aug 2014**

*Ocean Classroom Foundation, North Atlantic Eastern Seaboard & Caribbean Sea*

Professional crew for non-profit 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.