< BENJAMIN TJEPKES >

Wildlife Ecologist & Geospatial Scientist

██████████ ████████ | btjepkes.github.io | linkedin.com/in/benjamintjepkes | Columbia, MO

SUMMARY

- Dedicated spatial ecologist and data-driven geographer with **7+ years** of continuous professional advancement.
- Leveraging my **interdisciplinary expertise** in GIS, data science, and ecology to drive success in technical projects.
- Specializing in reproducible science, biogeography, landscape ecology, and imperiled species conservation.

PROFICIENCIES

Geospatial Modeling • Biological Research • Project Management • Web Development • Technical Reporting

- **Languages:** R, Python, ArcPy, Arcade, HTML, CSS/SCSS, SQL, LaTeX, Markdown
- **Environments:** RStudio, VSCode, Jupyter Notebook, R Markdown, Quarto, Google Workspace, M365
- **Geospatial:** ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, Esri Field Maps, ModelBuilder, QGIS, Leaflet, ERDAS Imagine, GEE
- **Miscellany:** Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Teams, SharePoint, git/GitHub, WordPress, Super, Notion, Zotero

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant — 08/23–Present
University of Missouri, Department of Geography — Columbia, MO

- Deliver engaging instruction to 50+ students on world regional geography, spatial analysis, and remote sensing.
- Manage syllabus development, assignment evaluation, and online course management systems.

Assistant Wildlife Diversity Coordinator — 08/22–08/23
Missouri Department of Conservation, Wildlife Diversity Program — Jefferson City, MO

- Led data reporting efforts for an inter-branch team implementing the Missouri Bat Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Drafted 10+ technical reports on statewide habitat management and bat monitoring using RStudio.
- Developed custom geoprocessing tools and visualization workflows to summarize tabular and spatial data.

Wildlife Biologist — 03/22–08/22
Missouri Department of Conservation, Furbearer Program — Columbia, MO

- Served in a technical role for a statewide science program to monitor and research fur-bearing species in Missouri.
- Generated population summaries, visualizations, and other data-driven reports for stakeholders.

Assistant Natural History Biologist — 05/20–03/22
Missouri Department of Conservation, Black Bear Program — Columbia, MO

- Led field and technical operations for a statewide black bear research and management program in Missouri.
- Coordinated black bear monitoring via ground/aerial telemetry, satellite web services, and physical capture.
- Maintained 10 years of observation and biological data using desktop GIS software and relational databases.

Additional Experience — 06/14–05/20
Office Support Assistant (MU Veterinary Health Center) • Deer and Elk Program Assistant (MDC) • Biological Science Technician (USFWS) • Student Project & Teaching Assistant (Wisconsin Center for Wildlife) • Pathways Intern (USFWS) • Wildlife Management Intern (Wisconsin DNR) • Research Technician (University of Wyoming) • Laboratory Analyst (RMBEL)

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Geography (GIS Emphasis, Thesis Option) — 05/2025 Exp.
University of Missouri — Columbia, MO

Bachelor of Science, Wildlife Ecology (3.76/4.00, *Cum laude*) — 05/2019
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point — Stevens Point, WI

Training & Certifications: Bayesian Statistics, LTRM, First Aid, CPR/AED, Chemical Immobilization, ATV/ORV, Watercraft

RECOGNITIONS

National Honor Society for Geospatial Technology	2023
MDC Science Branch Employee of the Year	2023
UWSP Chancellor's Leadership Award	2019

INVOLVEMENT

The Wildlife Society (National, Missouri)	2015–Present
Society for Conservation GIS	2022–Present
Ecological Society of America	2023–Present