

Education Coordinator
Anonymous

Education: BA – Metro State College, MA – Western State College

Awards Received: DOW 2001 Most Positive Employee, 2004 Mule Deer Association DOW Employee of the year, Delta School District Partner of the year award.

Professional Associations: Colorado High School Activities Association, National Association of Secondary School Principals

Temporary Work with the DOW: Crystal River Hatchery fall 1996.

Past Job Titles and Work Locations: School Administrator: Lake County Schools, South Routt County Schools, Roaring Fork School Dist Re-1

Advice for Students: Make sure you are driven to be an educator not just a teacher.

How I Got my “Foot in the Door”: Temp work at the hatchery.

Why I Enjoy my Job: Seeing wildlife education light bulbs going on with classroom students.

Best Day on the Job: Seeing smiling faces all lit up from an encounter with wildlife education.

Worst Day on the Job: Hearing “You can’t do that because that’s not the way we’ve done it in the past”.

Watchable Wildlife Coordinator

Anonymous

Education: Bachelor's of Science- General Biology Degree

Volunteer Work with the DOW or Field Related to Wildlife: Bobcat and Gray fox trapping and telemetry tracking in southern Georgia.

Temporary Work with the DOW or Field Related to Wildlife: Both Gunnison and Greater Sage Grouse temp work (some temp time with the DOW and some temp time with University of Idaho). Both jobs included trapping, blood samples, lek monitoring, chick monitoring, nest monitoring and telemetry work.

Past Jobs: Temporary in the Plant Ecology Lab at Joseph W Jones Ecological research Center (South Georgia).

Advice for Students: Volunteer, tag along whenever possible. Always be open to learn cutting edge scientific equipment (i.e., for me it was GPS, telemetry, GIS and computer design programs). Get a college four-year degree related to wildlife.

How I Got my "Foot in the Door": I worked directly with the agency that I wanted to work for during my professional career. While I was a temporary, I tried to get involved every time they need help with various projects and grew my resume to really fit with the CDOW and their mission.

Why I Enjoy My Job: It directly involves introducing people to wildlife (through hunting, viewing, fishing and educating) and I really love sharing wildlife knowledge with people.

Best Day on the Job: Not being at my desk!

Worst Day on the Job: Being stuck at my desk with just "paper work". Luckily, that is not too often.

Tabbi Kinion, Project WILD Coordinator

Education: B.S. in Natural Resources Management, Concentration in Conservation Biology from Colorado State University, 1999

Awards Received: 2005 Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education Government Award – JCOS Junior Ranger Program - 2002 Jefferson County Open Space: Employee Team Award for “Fire Awareness Team” – 2000 CDOW: Employee Recognition Award for hard work and dedication.

Professional Associations: Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, Colorado Association of Science Teachers

Volunteer Work with DOW or Field Related to Wildlife: Park Patroller Volunteer with Jefferson County Open Space, Volunteer Project WILD/WET/Learning Tree Facilitator (Now I coordinate these volunteers!), CDOW Volunteer – Mount Evans Watchable Wildlife, Education programs, Bear Aware Team

Temporary Work with DOW or Field Related to Wildlife: CDOW Acting Metro Area Education Coordinator; Jefferson County Open Space Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Seasonal Naturalist; Rocky Mountain National Park, Education Technician, Formal Education Park Ranger (school groups); CDOW, Temporary Admin Assistant, NE Region Education Program Assistant; Colorado State University/CDOW Workstudy assistant to NE Region Education Coordinator; CDOW, Admin Assistant Intern, Assistant to NE Region Real Estate Specialist; Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Youth in Natural Resources Crew Member

Past Job Titles and Locations: Jefferson County Open Space – Lookout Mountain Nature Center Interpretive Specialist/Naturalist and Nature Center Program Coordinator

Advice for Students:

1. VOLUNTEER in the field! It’s the best way to:
 - a. Meet the people you might want to work for.
 - b. Find out if you actually like what we do.
 - c. Acquire important skills that you just can’t learn in school.
 - d. Get enough experience to compete for paid positions – most people prefer to hire someone who has some experience.
2. Take science, writing and any natural resources classes available to you. They will make the college level classes much easier for you.

3. Try different things. You might enjoy the first job you try, but you may love the second one – or the third. If you love what you do it makes it easy to come to work in the morning.

How I Got my “Foot in the Door”: I started early. During my River Watch class in High School I learned about a scholarship that was available from the CDOW. At that scholarship interview I learned about the Youth in Natural Resources (YNR) summer job program. During my summer in YNR I had the opportunity to work at the CDOW cleaning fish tanks and doing data entry. Sounds boring, but I was hooked on working in this field. I liked working with the CDOW so much I volunteered for fun hands-on wildlife projects like mist netting birds and tracking boreal toads. I even volunteered to drive 1 ½ hours on weekends to talk to people about wildlife at the top of Mount Evans. I also worked with my Financial Aid office at Colorado State University to get a work study award so I could work at the CDOW during the school year. Between the volunteer work, work study and temp jobs during the summer I managed to get enough experience to work for other natural resources organizations. When the Project WILD position came open I was excited to have the opportunity to come back to the organization where I started.

Why I Enjoy my Job: The best part about my job is that I get to do something completely different everyday. I get to travel the state, meet new people and share my enthusiasm and passion for wildlife. I learn so much in this job – from how to use graphic design programs to create a newsletter that gets mailed to over 17,000 Colorado educators to the best techniques for netting ducks from a speeding swamp boat in the middle of the night. I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to try so many different things.

I also really enjoy working with the CDOW staff. This staff puts their heart and soul into “Keeping Colorado Wild.”

Best Day on the Job: There are many favorite moments to pick from. Some of the best so far:

- Exploring Maroon Bells on a perfect fall day
- Meeting excited kids who send fun pictures and thank you notes in the mail.
- Laughing with the Project WILD volunteers at the end of a long conference day.
- Climbing Berthoud Pass at 4:30 a.m. looking for bighorn sheep.
- Reading the positive notes from the people who come to my workshops.
- Sending letters to a class of kids letting them know that we are sending them money to create their habitat garden.

Worst Day on the Job: I hate days when too many deadlines are approaching at the same time and there just simply isn't enough time to get everything done. My job includes many responsibilities and sometimes this can wear me down.