



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 3, 2021

Mr. Dan Stapleton
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 Ninth Street
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE MEMBERSHIP ON THE EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING COMMITTEE

Dear Mr. Stapleton:

The purpose of this letter is to nominate a new California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) representative to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC). This letter requests that the Board appoint Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Ben Waitman, as the voting CDFW member of the EMC with the current voting member.

Dr. Waitman is a staff member of CDFW's Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program, representing CDFW at Board meetings, in statewide policy efforts, and monitoring projects. Per the rules of the EMC charter regarding membership, Dr. Waitman has a scientific background in biology, is knowledgeable of the California Forest Practice Rules, routinely collaborates with others through his current job duties, and he is interested in serving as a voting member of the EMC. Dr. Waitman has worked collaboratively to implement projects and scientific research within state and federal government, academia, and the private sector for more than 15 years as a biologist. Please see the attached *curriculum vitae* for more information.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding this request. If you have questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please contact Elliot Chasin at (916) 206-0384, or elliott.chasin@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Jeff Drangesen, Branch Chief
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

Mr. Dan Stapleton
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
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Attachment

cc: J. Keith Gilliss, Ph.D, Chair
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 Ninth Street
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Susan Husari, Co-Chair of the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 Ninth Street
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

ec: California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
publiccomments@bof.ca.gov

Loretta Moreno, Co-Chair of the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program
California Natural Resources Agency
loretta.moreno@resources.ca.gov

Edith Hannigan, Land Use Planning Program Manager
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
edith.hannigan@bof.ca.gov

Isabel Baer, Environmental Program Manager
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
California Department of Fish and Wildlife:
isabel.baer@wildlife.ca.gov

Ben Waitman CV, 2021

Ben Waitman, Ph.D.
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency
1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, CA 95605
Benjamin.Waitman@wildlife.ca.gov

Education

Ph.D. – Ecology - University of California, Davis, Sept. 2019

Dissertation: “The Effects of Chronic Nitrogen Deposition On the Ectomycorrhizal Community Structure and Function of a Forest Ecosystem With a Mediterranean Climate”
Advisor: Dr. Valerie Eviner

M.S. - Biology - University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, May 2009

Thesis: “Rodent Mediated Seed Dispersal of Joshua Trees (*Yucca brevifolia*)”
Advisor: Dr. Stephen Vander Wall

B.S. – Biology - College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia May 2004

Senior Thesis: “An ordination and classification of bottomland forests in the lower Mississippi alluvial plain”
Advisor: Dr. Stewart Ware

Research And Professional Experience

***Sr. Environmental Scientist* (2021-Present) – CA. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, West Sacramento, CA**

- Responsibilities include: legislative analysis, policy implementation, technical consultation, and monitoring for CDFW’s Timber Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program. Areas of focus include timber harvest plan review activities, implementation of CA Forest Practice Rules, and monitoring of the effects of Timber Harvest on sensitive species and natural resources.

***Environmental Scientist* (2020-2021) – CA. Dept. of Water Resources, Sacramento, CA**

- I served as the state’s environmental lead for several large joint projects between the US Army Corps of Engineers, local sponsors, and the Dept. of Water Resources. Responsibilities included working with agencies and local partners to ensure compliance with state, federal, and local environmental laws protecting natural resources. Part of this effort involved implementing surveys for sensitive species (special status plants, protected bird species, and bats) and other protected resources such as wetlands.

***Staff Biologist* (2017-2020) – ECORP Consulting, Inc., Rocklin, CA**

- Responsibilities included environmental permitting pursuant to state, federal, and local laws such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and CA State environmental regulations. I designed and performed field surveys for rare plants, plant community mapping, wetland delineation, arboricultural surveys, endangered species habitat surveys, and others. Other duties included project management and permitting for a variety of public and private clients.

***Graduate Researcher* (2017) – University of California, Davis, Dept. of Plant Sciences**

Ben Waitman CV, 2021

- I evaluated the putative role of tree roots in the Oroville Dam Spillway disaster of 2016. With a team of UC Davis researchers, I conducted literature reviews, rapidly collected available data during reconstruction, and evaluated available records to determine whether the proximity of tree roots contributed to spillway failure.

Doctoral Research (2010-2017)

University of California, Davis

- I designed, funded, and implemented a series of studies evaluating the effects of atmospheric nitrogen pollution on the root symbionts of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and soil legacy effects in California grasslands.

Ecologist (June 2010-Sep 2010) – USGS, Western Ecological Research Station, Bishop, California

- I examined the role of rodent populations on the process of meadow infill by conifers in the high altitude meadows of the Sierra Nevada.

Laboratory Technician (2009)– USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Reno, Nevada

- I implemented experiments in the field and vegetation and soil samples for several projects on Great Basin plant restoration and long term woodland monitoring.

Masters Research (2006-2009)

University of Nevada, Reno

- I designed, funded, and implemented a series of studies examining the seed dispersal mechanism and seed fate implications for Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) in the Mojave Desert of Nevada and California. Additional projects included designing and implementing research on rodent seed caching behavior in mixed conifer forests in the Sierra Nevada.

Biologist (2004-2009) – US Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center, Las Vegas Field Station. Henderson, Nevada (Some concurrent with MS research)

- I worked on many research and monitoring projects involving desert plant restoration, Mojave desert rodent populations, desert tortoise habitat assessments, Joshua tree habitat mapping, post-fire effects in montane woodlands. Duties included data collection, data processing and analysis, study design, and preparation of reports and manuscripts.

Field Assistant (2004) – Highlands, North Carolina

- I assisted a PhD student with dissertation research. Duties included field data collection for a project on the mating systems of a common flowering plant.

Forestry research technician (2003) – University of Maine. Orono, Maine

- I was part of a field crew evaluating canopy and stem thinning treatments in spruce-fir managed forests. Responsibilities included collection of tree demography and silvicultural data on private land holdings across the state of Maine.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant –, “**Ecological Restoration**” (ENH 160)

Plant Sciences Department, University of California, Davis, 2012-2016

Instructor - 2016, “**Soil Ecology for Organic Farmers**” – Soil Born Farms Apprenticeship Program

Ben Waitman CV, 2021

Teaching Assistant – “**Woody Plants in the Landscape**” (ENH 133) Department of Plant Sciences, University of California, Davis (2013-2015)

Teaching Assistant – “**Plant-Animal Interactions**” Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of California, Davis (2012) Winter quarter

Instructor – “**Experimental Field Ecology**” (BIOL 322)

Biology Department, University of Nevada, Reno (2009) Summer Session

Teaching Assistant– “**Range and Forest Ecology**” (NRES 493)

Natural Resources Department, University of Nevada. Reno (2008) Spring Semester

Publications

Peer Reviewed

Waitman, B. A., S. B. Vander Wall, and T. C. Esque. 2012. Seed dispersal and seed fate in Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*). *Journal of Arid Environments* 81:1-8.

Ware, S., S. E. Crow, and B. A. Waitman. 2011. Mode of substrate adaptation in rock outcrop plants: *Cyperus aristatus* Rottb. and *Cyperus granitophilus* McVaugh. *Castanea* 76: 377-385

Waitman, B.A., T. D. Draper, and T. C. Esque. 2009. The effects of seeding a sterile wheat cultivar after wildfire on native plant recovery in a Pinyon Pine-Mountain Mahogany Woodland. *The International Journal of Wildland Fire* 18:669-664.

Vander Wall, S. B., M. S. Enders, and B. A. Waitman. Asymmetrical cache pilfering between yellow pine chipmunks and golden-mantled ground squirrels. *Animal Behaviour* 78:555-561.

Vander Wall, S. B., C. J. Downs, M. S. Enders, and B. A. Waitman. 2008. Do yellow pine chipmunks prefer to recover their own caches? *The Western North American Naturalist* 68:319-325.

Dale, E. E., S. Ware, and B. Waitman. 2007. Ordination and classification of bottomland forests in the lower Mississippi alluvial plain. *Castanea* 72:105-115.

Vander Wall, S. B., T. Esque, D. Haines, M. Garnett, and B. A. Waitman. 2006. Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) seeds are dispersed by seed-caching rodents. *Ecoscience* 13:539-543.

Other Publications (non-peer reviewed)

Waitman, B.A., 2019, The Effects of Chronic Nitrogen Deposition On the Ectomycorrhizal Community Structure and Function of a Forest Ecosystem With a Mediterranean Climate. PhD Dissertation, University of California, Davis

Harder, L.F., C. Ellsworth, S. Hoss, B. Waitman, M. Lay, A.M. Berry. 2018. Assessment of Potential Tree Root Impacts on the 2017 Oroville Dam Spillway Incident. Proceedings of the 2018 Annual Conference of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Seattle, WA, September 9 - 13, 2018. Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Inc.

Ben Waitman CV, 2021

Esque, T.C., B. Reynolds, L.A. DeFalco, and B.A. Waitman. 2010. Demographic studies of Joshua trees in Mojave Desert National Parks. Mojave National Preserve Science Newsletter 2010(10): 9-12.

Waitman, B.A., 2009, Rodent Mediated Seed Dispersal of Joshua Trees (*Yucca brevifolia*). MS Thesis, University of Nevada, Reno

Waitman, B. A., T. M. Draper, T. C. Esque. 2006. The effects of sterile wheat (Triticale) seeding on a native plant community after wildfire in a pinyon pine-mountain mahogany woodland. 2005 annual report to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. 33pp.[Technical Report]

Professional Society Memberships

Ecological Society of America (2006-2017)

Society for Conservation Biology (2010-2015)

Mycological Society of America (2010-2016)

International Society of Arboriculture (2017-2021)

Certifications and Training

ISA Certified Arborist – Jan 2018 – Present

Association of Environmental Professionals – *CEQA Essentials Training* (October 3rd, 2017)

California Native Plant Society – Preparing CEQA Recommendations (November 5-6th, 2017)

Jepson Herbarium – Wetland Delineation Training (May 13th-17th, 2018)

American Red Cross – First Aid and CPR Training (February 19th, 2020)