

Brielle Jaglowski

Graduation Year: Sophomore

College: Science

Major(s): Environmental Sciences

Minors(s): Sustainability

Scholar Group Membership: NA

Did you received other funding for this project?: no

Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No

More details on CUSE funding assistance?

Project Title: Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer on Masked Bobwhite Quail Reintroduction Project

Project Location: Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge near Sasabe, AZ

ND Faculty Mentor: NA (Dr. Dominic Chaloner wrote letter of recommendation)

Project Type: Service-Learning, Research Assistantship

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Prepare for graduate school (MA or PhD), Career discernment and/or preparation

Did your funded experience help you:

[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]: Very Much

[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]: Yes

[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]: Yes

[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]: Very Much

[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:A Little

Tell us about your experience.

At the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, I helped with the reintroduction project for masked bobwhite quails, an endangered species surviving through captive breeding programs. The Refuge was formed to protect and restore the population of this species. During my time, I helped transplant native grasses and shrubs into flight pens where the quails are kept. This provides suitable habitat for the quails, and planting them in the flight pens prepares the birds for what they will experience in the wild. I also half-cut mesquite trees which provides cover for the quails when escaping from predators like coyotes and owls. Moreover, I aided in chasing quails after they were temporarily released from call pens so they can practice hiding from predators, and I subsequently tracked them using radio telemetry. It was an amazing experience to help with the recovery and reintroduction of this endangered species. I also enjoyed learning about the management of the Refuge and its history.

Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.

As a student-scholar, this project impacted my learning and allowed me to gain pertinent knowledge and experience in a hands-on manner, outside of the classroom. It was awesome to learn about different aspects of the masked bobwhite quails--from their history to their habitat preferences--from the Refuge employees and volunteers that study them on a daily basis and play such a large part in boosting the population. I was also impacted by the dedication of the volunteers at the site, as they have devoted an impressive amount of hours to improving the Refuge and helping the masked bobwhite quails. This reintroduction project is central to the biologists, volunteers, and intern that I worked with, and is central to the mission of the Refuge. Further, it helps us to all recognize the importance of conservation and the significant impact of particular species on the environment.

Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.

This project connects to my plans to attend graduate school and perform field research in the future through its goal of conservation and exploration of techniques beneficial to the reintroduction of endangered species. In addition, I gain valuable field work skills relating to habitat restoration, vegetation identification, and radio telemetry that will prepare me for positions I may hold in the future. Furthermore, it has inspired future research questions in me that relate to studying the most effective techniques for endangered species reintroduction.

What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?

To students who are planning to pursue similar projects, I would say: Go for it! This experience may be unfamiliar and take place outside of the comfort of the indoors, but it is worth it. You will not be able to predict the amount of knowledge you will gain or the fun you will have, you just have to jump into these opportunities! They offer you the chance to learn outside of the classroom environment, and provide hands-on opportunities to work with the environment. These tasks also allow you to develop greater responsibility, independence, and flexibility, all of which will help you in future jobs to come!

I acknowledge that this form has been filled out truthfully and to the best of my ability. I understand that this information will be shared with many different CUSE constituencies. As such, I have provided as much useful information as I was able. I understand that CUSE will not complete my award disbursement until this form is successfully completed. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact CUSE before submitting this form. To illustrate that you understand all of these points, please enter your Notre Dame email in the box below.
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