
PAYTON FISCHER

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Dear MWPARC Co-Chairs,

Please accept this letter as an expression of my interest in the Advisory Board for MWPARC. I am a highly motivated and progress-focused individual that has accumulated experience through my research in this industry. Currently, I recently graduated in May 2020 from IUPUI with my Master of Science degree in GIS. I currently do not have a job due to being a recent graduate and the difficulties that come with the COVID-19 pandemic. I am actively looking and interviewing for jobs in the natural resources and conservation fields.

Throughout the course of my career, I have had many research experiences provided to me by my undergraduate professor, Dr. Bob Brodman. These experiences have given me a solid foundation in community outreach, conservation, and networking skills. Specifically, I have experience with amphibian and reptile identification, collection methods, toxicology, data collection and analysis, and habitat restoration. Much of my past work includes time doing population surveys in ponds, forests, and prairies. My most recent degree was focused on habitat modeling for mudpuppies in the midwestern states. I believe having an extensive understanding of geospatial modeling helps to improve research methods by allowing researchers to view their data in a new way.

I am greatly interested in being a member of the MWPARC Advisory Board. I believe that being a recent graduate gives me a different perspective that can help reach students. Over the years of attending the MWPARC meetings, I have noticed that there are many students that come with their professors. Very rarely do I see them attend future meetings after graduating. My goal is to work with the existing advisory board to encourage these students to come back after graduating and participate in future MWPARC meetings. I believe that MWPARC as well as other PARC chapters have a unique opportunity to allow students to network and participate in something that can enact change and help in the conservation of amphibians and reptiles.

I also believe that with the MWPARC meetings moving to a bi-annual meeting, there should be more outreach to those that participate in the meetings. I do not know if it is a clerical problem with my contact information not being on some list, but I believe that there is an opportunity for more communication with the MWPARC community. I am really interested in the working groups that have come from the meetings and I believe that they are an important part of MWPARC. My hope is that we can work towards these goals that are set out in the working groups to better conservation for herps.

Attending MWPARC meetings as an undergraduate student has been very influential on who I am as a researcher. I am greatly interested in being apart of what makes MWPARC function. I believe in the organization and hope that I can help this organization continue with its mission of conserving amphibians and reptiles while creating lasting partnerships.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Payton Fischer