

**MICHELE A. JAMES**  
**Northern Arizona University**  
**Michele.James@nau.edu**

**EDUCATION**

Master of Liberal Studies in Sustainable Communities, Northern Arizona University, 2003  
Thesis focus: Public art, ritual, extinct species of the Colorado Plateau

Post-baccalaureate in Fine Arts, Visual Communication: Graphic Design, 2014  
Northern Arizona University

Bachelor of Science, Wildlife Biology/Tech. Journalism, Colorado State University, 1990

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Research Coordinator · Center for Ecosystem Science and Society · NAU**

August 2015 – present

- Graphic design of outreach publications;
- Website design;
- Communication of scientific research for a non-scientific audience;
- Finding and creating innovative ways to communicate science.

**Research Coordinator · Department of Biological Sciences · NAU**

June 2007 – August 2015

- Manage Marks Lab of Aquatic Ecology: ensure organized lab with necessary equipment and supplies to ensure research is completed in timely manner; manage undergraduate student workers; assist with equipment construction and field work;
- Identify and write grant proposals; managed and reported on five funded grant proposals (over \$500,000 raised in five years as a direct result of proposals); prepare interim and detailed yearly reports on findings to funders;
- Facilitate, organize and coordinate diverse 40-person stakeholder group to achieve active public participation in environmental decision-making at Fossil Creek; ensure accurate communication; prepare cooperatively written comments from the stakeholders to the Forest Service; conduct environmental collaboration and conflict resolution;
- Communicate scientific, technical and social information about Fossil Creek restoration and ecosystem to the public, land managers and with various NAU departments;
- Conduct environmental outreach including content and design of two web sites, and numerous ecological publications;
- Prepare comprehensive riparian vegetation and water quality monitoring plans for Fossil Creek in accordance with Arizona Water Protection Fund requirements; prepare yearly reports detailing results;
- Communicate and coordinate with federal/state management agencies, conservation organizations and scientists to ensure comprehensive and high quality research and monitoring;
- Ensure federal and state fish and research permits are in place for all Lab research; provide required yearly updates.

- Utilize in-depth understanding of federal environmental and land management laws and policies;
- Editing graduate students' manuscripts, papers, and theses for accuracy, clarity and consistency.

**Part-time Instructor · University College · NAU**

August 2013-present

- Instructor of undergraduate First Year Seminar classes with a focus on poetry, the arts, activism, community involvement, zombies as metaphor, and fear of the future;
- Created content for classes that focus upon facilitated learning focus and students' interests;
- Supervised Graduate Assistant and undergraduate Teaching Assistants in implementation of the Action Learning Team connected to the seminars.

**Part-time Instructor · School of Communication · NAU**

August 2010 – May 2012

- Instructor of undergraduate environmental communication class with focus on the forms of media representation (art, music, literature and film) of the environment and the effect communication has upon public/political perceptions and action on the environment;
- Created the first digital content for class lectures utilizing current technology and media;
- Significantly expanded and updated the class to include a new section on environmental film and updated examples of environmental art, music and literature;
- Updated class assignments to include experiential learning and modern media forms.

**Ecological Oral Histories Project · Sustainable Communities Program · NAU**

2005-2010

- Wrote two successfully funded grant proposals oral history project designed to gather ecologically focused formal interviews with “old timers” in Northern Arizona (ranchers, native Americans, field biologists, etc.);
- Worked with artists/photographers on exhibit design and setup for Ecological Oral History Exhibit at Coconino Center for the Arts (2007) and on planning 2010 exhibit;
- Wrote ecological “lessons learned” based upon interviews conducted to date;
- Coordinated grant implementation including video camera use, logistics, budget, etc.

**Graphic Designer/Contractor · Center for Sustainable Environments · NAU**

September-November 2008

- Publication design, layout and production of *Western Landscape Conservation: Recommendations for the Next Federal Administration*, a 16-page document outlining needed conservation policy actions for the new Obama administration (available at <http://www.westernconservation.org/docs/recommendations.pdf>).

**Graphic Designer/Contractor · Sustainable Living Lecture Series · Flagstaff, AZ**

June 2007-June 2008

- Design, layout and production of a series of eight flyers advertising environmental speakers in this lecture series produced by the City of Flagstaff, Coconino County, multiple departments/programs at NAU, Willow Bend Environmental Center and others.

**Wildlife Biologist · Grand Canyon National Park · Flagstaff, AZ**

July 2004 – March 2008

- Conducted research analysis determining effects of the Colorado River Management Plan and Grand Canyon over flights on endangered species and habitats;
- Consulted with experts in NPS and federal and state agencies and academia to determine status of endangered species within Grand Canyon;
- Formulated recommendations to mitigate negative impacts to wildlife, fish and their habitat.

**Research Program Coordinator · Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Program · NAU**

November 2004-June 2007

- Served as principal investigator and coordinator of science-based research and monitoring projects involving the Verde River, Arizona Heritage Waters, Slide Rock orchard restoration and the proposed Sunshine Wind Farm;
- Organized and led public meetings with public and scientific stakeholders;
- Designed education and outreach publications including *The Importance of Grasslands in Northern Arizona* (2005);
- Organized panel discussion on grassland management for the Biennial Conference on Research on the Colorado Plateau;
- Conducted research analysis and writing for NAU's *Environmental Guide*;
- Wrote content for and supervised population and maintenance of program website;
- Identified funding opportunities and completed three successful grant proposals;

**Graphic Designer/Contractor · Willow Bend Environmental Center · Flagstaff, AZ**

October-December 2007

- Designed pledge form requesting donations for environmental education.

**Fossil Creek Program Coordinator · Departments of Geology and Engineering · NAU**

May 2004-June 2007

- Communicated scientific, technical and social information about Fossil Creek restoration and ecosystem to the public, land managers and with Primary Investigators in four NAU departments;
- Coordinated research and monitoring associated with the ecological restoration of Fossil Creek, Arizona;
- Edited and wrote comprehensive *State of the Fossil Creek Watershed Report* (2005) detailing conditions prior to restoration of full flows and a native fishery.
- Conducted environmental outreach including content and design of a web site, on-site education posters for public information meetings; produced numerous ecological publications; conducted numerous multi-agency and public educational meetings;
- Assisted with and ensured communication between researchers from four NAU departments;
- Wrote articles about Fossil Creek for publications focused on water in the Southwest.

**Scientific Writer · Ecological Restoration Institute · NAU**

2005 and 2007

- Reviewed relevant scientific information, consulted with experts, and wrote two pieces for the series “Working Papers in Southwest Ponderosa Pine Forest Restoration” presenting findings and management recommendations from current research (see Publications).

**Species Conservation Program Manager · Grand Canyon Trust · Flagstaff, AZ**

January 2002 – June 2004

- Worked collaboratively with scientists and land managers as member of the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership Advisory Board to resolve forest restoration issues in the urban interface surrounding Flagstaff;
- Led the Coconino County Comprehensive Plan Wildlife Workgroup and wrote significant portions of the Coconino County Wildlife Reference Document detailing wildlife movement areas in seven distinct ecological communities;
- Reviewed and commented on Federal and state management proposals related to native fish restoration, ski area improvements, forest restoration and recreation management;
- Researched and wrote endangered species sections of a draft conservation alternative for the three southern Utah Forest Management Plans (Dixie, Fishlake and Manti-La Sal National Forests);
- Worked with a coalition of scientists and the public to craft language for southern Utah Forest Management Plans that provided for native species and sustainable human use;
- Completed GIS analyses on wildlife movement areas (black bear, gray wolf, etc.) in Coconino County and Utah.

**Fish and Wildlife Biologist · US Fish and Wildlife Service · Flagstaff and Phoenix, AZ**

January 1994 – January 2002

- Assisted with the recovery of endangered wildlife and fish species and their critical habitat pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (Mexican spotted owl, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, southwestern willow flycatcher, Little Colorado spinedace, loach minnow and Arizona cliffrose);
- Determined mitigation and monitoring requirements for federal actions that negatively affected endangered species;
- Worked directly with federal and state managers and conducted field reviews to analyze complex management actions including forest restoration, prescribed burns, grazing and road building;
- Negotiated and resolved conflicts to ensure protection of endangered species and their habitat.

**Wildlife Biologist · US Forest Service, Deschutes National Forest · Sisters, OR**

May 1987 – December 1993

- Conducted field surveys and monitoring of endangered and sensitive species related to timber removal projects (northern spotted owl, goshawk, bull trout, spotted frog and bald eagle);
- Conducted wildlife habitat improvement projects;
- Wrote assessments analyzing effects of forest activities on endangered wildlife and plant species;
- Assisted with prescribed fire application and wildland fire fighting efforts.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Adams, Kenneth J., Brenda Harrop, Michele James and Jane Marks. 2015. Riparian Vegetation and Water Quality Monitoring: Middle Fossil Creek Riparian Habitat Protection and Restoration Project, Final Report: Monitoring Data and Analysis, 2010-2014. Northern Arizona University, Department of Biological Sciences. Prepared for Coconino National Forest, Grant No. 09-162WPF, Arizona Water Protection Fund. 54 pp.
- Marks, Jane C., Kenneth J. Adams, Eric Dinger, and Michele James. 2009. Battles Between Non-native Crayfish and Native Species in Fossil Creek, Arizona: Does Restoration Hinder or Help? Northern Arizona University. Report to Arizona Game and Fish Department, Heritage Grant I05002.
- Marks, Jane C., Stefan Sommer, Paul Bockhorst, and Michele James. 2009. A River Reborn: The Restoration of Fossil Creek. Northern Arizona University. Report to Arizona Game and Fish Department, Heritage Grant I06001.
- James, Michele A. 2007. ERI Working Paper 20: Controlling Cheatgrass in Ponderosa Pine and Pinyon-Juniper Restoration Areas. Ecological Restoration Institute, Northern Arizona University.
- James, Michele A. and Elizabeth Reese (Eds.). 2007. Fossil Creek EcoNotes: A Summary of Current Research Results. Fossil Creek Ecosystem Studies Group, Northern Arizona University.
- Tilt, Whitney, Craig Conley, Michele James, Janet Lynn, Tisha Munoz-Erickson, and Peter Warren. 2006. Creating Successful Collaborations in the West: Lessons from the Field. *In* Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Research on the Colorado Plateau.
- James, Michele A. (Ed.). 2005. Fossil Creek State of the Watershed Report: Current Condition of the Fossil Creek Watershed Prior to Return of Full Flows and Other Decommissioning Activities. Northern Arizona University. 228 pp.
- James, Michele A. 2005. Working Paper 14: Integrating Forest Restoration Treatments with Mexican Spotted Owl Habitat Needs. Ecological Restoration Institute, Northern Arizona University.
- James, Michele A. 2005. Restoring Fossil Creek: A Collaborative Effort. *Southwest Hydrology*, November/December. 228 pp.
- James, Michele A. 2003. Envisioning a Memorial for Extinct Species. Master's Thesis, Northern Arizona University.
- James, Michele A. 2003. The Sacred. *In The Heart of Flagstaff: 21 Stories About A Sense of Place*. Mary Sojourner and Peter Friederici (Eds.). Friends of Flagstaff's Future.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Research on the Colorado Plateau (2007). Special Session Organizer: The Restoration of Fossil Creek: Results of Research and Monitoring.

9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Research on the Colorado Plateau (2007). Using Oral Histories to Document Environmental Change in Northern Arizona. Friederici, Peter G., Michele A. James, and George W. Lubick.

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Natural Areas Conference (2006). Poster: James, Michele A., Sandra Lubarsky and Peter Friederici. Ecological Oral Histories Project.

7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Research on the Colorado Plateau (2005). Special Session Organizer: Fossil Creek: An Opportunity to Restore a Diverse Native Fishery and Study the Effects of Return of Full Flows.

7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Research on the Colorado Plateau (2005). Special Session Organizer: Creating Successful Partnerships for Rangeland Conservation.

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (2001). Presentation and panel discussion: A Memorial for Extinct Species.