

# Andres Esparza

301 S. Boulevard, Gunnison, CO 81230  
915-740-5178 | andres.esparza@western.edu

## PROFILE

---

- Over 7 years of experience in the field of education with a focus on experiential outdoor education experiences on public lands with affiliated non-profit organizations.
- Ability to design and facilitate public forums focused on environmental issues and public lands
- Experience in mentoring youth and young professionals with an environmental focus.
- Experience in public land management

## EDUCATION

---

<b>University of Texas at El Paso</b>	El Paso, TX
<i>Bachelors in Sociology</i>	2006
<i>Focus on demographics and social/racial issues on the US/Mexico border.</i>	GPA: 3.8

<b>Western State Colorado University</b>	Gunnison, CO
<i>Master in Environmental Management Candidate</i>	
<i>Project: Cultural Diversity on Public Lands</i>	2016

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

---

<b>Western State Colorado University</b>	Gunnison, CO
<i>Sustainability Mentor</i>	2014 – Current

As a sustainability mentor for undergraduates at Western State Colorado University (WSCU), I work in the Leadership, Engagement and Development (LEAD) Office. My duties involve mentoring undergraduates in sustainability projects, advising them in regards to careers paths in the outdoor education field, serving as a facilitator for campus events and working to spread the message of sustainability efforts at WSCU through the website, social media, news articles and events.

Key accomplishments include:

- Facilitating Earth Week celebrations
- Mentoring undergraduates in sustainability efforts on campus including a compost program, TerraCycling, FreeCycle and other efforts
- Working with administrators and staff at WSCU to create a Learning Living Community with the purpose of making sustainability a central theme of student life at WSCU.

- Facilitating the MEM Forum (Average attendance: 80) where community members and students gather to discuss relevant local environmental concerns and potential solutions.

## **NatureBridge**

Yosemite N.P., CA

*Roles Included: Field Educator, Site Manager, Ed Support and WildLink Staff* 2008-2015

As a Field Educator for NatureBridge my duties included educating and guiding students of various ages in Yosemite National Park. Students received educational programming including coursework in Geology, Ecology, and Cultural History. In addition team building and self-challenge was emphasized with the hope of fostering a sense of self-reliance and community with fellow students. Seasonal differences brought different duties and along with academic learning my duties included teaching cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, leading backpacking trips (all seasons), teaching LNT ethics and various other outdoor living skills. Additionally my duties included facilitating campfire programs and also an evening program based on transferable environmental messages. My accomplishments included gaining a greater comfort in the mountain environment both with students and solo, acquiring new outdoor recreation skills and gaining a better appreciation and understanding of the Sierra Nevada environment and its connection to the larger natural world.

As a Site Manager at the Crane Flat campus my duties were more centered on program logistics. In addition I was a liaison between NatureBridge and our participants and their first contact person when they arrived to Yosemite. Logistical duties centered around maintaining a safe and efficient residential outdoor education campus and ensuring that participants were having their needs met while off trail. In addition I ensured their success on trail through careful preparation and expectation setting prior to meeting their instructors. I also was in charge of running meals and basic maintenance duties. My NatureBridge liaison duties were focused on welcoming participants and adult chaperones to Yosemite and explaining procedures for both campus and trail. In addition, I ran adult chaperone meetings in which I covered basic program orientation, expectations, duties and alleviated medical, emotional or physical concerns with all participants.

As a member of the Education Support team I worked in the office for one week a month. During this time I was asked to fulfill many duties. The first was a project where I created connections between NatureBridge and stewardship organizations in California. I created content for our website that allows participants to find opportunities for stewardship in their home communities. In addition I was expected to assist in office duties that ranged from answering phones, assisting educators in the field, ensuring proper arrival and departure time with bus companies and acting as Day Manager.

As a WildLink Educator I operated in both the front and backcountry. While in the front country I met with participants and fulfilled the duties mentioned above in my Field Educator role. In addition, I had the opportunity to interact with more diverse populations and work on developing culturally relevant materials. The backcountry portion of my WildLink role enabled me to share the backcountry with participants who might not normally be afforded these opportunities. Many of the duties were similar to those mentioned above as a field science educator in the backcountry. However I also learned skills necessary for working with various behavioral and emotional issues not normally encountered with other NatureBridge programs.

## **National Park Service**

Boulder City, NV

*Project Coordinator/Interpretation* 2007

As a Project Coordinator for the National Park Service (NPS) my duty was to supervise a team of five employees on the southern portion of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAME). The

project was in relation to an invasive species called the Quagga Mussel and our duties included informing visitors of the Quagga Mussel, performing educational outreach in the surrounding communities and acting as a liaison between visitors to the park and regulating agencies. As supervisor my duties also included creating schedules for the employees I was supervisor of, meeting with other project leaders on a weekly basis and acting as a liaison between staff and project leaders. My accomplishments included furthering my skills as a supervisor, learning the culture of the NPS, enhancing my own understanding of ecology and furthering my skills as a transmitter of information to a variety of groups.

## **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

---

- Project Findings and Key Recommendations Presentation, April 2016, Montrose, CO
  - Presented final report and recommendations to stakeholders
- BLM Leadership Team Meeting, April 2015, Lakewood, CO
  - Presented MEM Master's Project proposal and succeeded in enlisting assistance and participation from Colorado BLM Leadership Team
- George Wright Conference, March 2015, San Francisco, CA
  - Presented poster of MEM Master's Project
- AASHE Conference, October 2015, Minneapolis, MN
  - Presented poster of WSCU Sustainability Initiatives

## **CERTIFICATIONS/TRAININGS**

---

- Wilderness First Responder (WFR) Certification from NOLS WMI

## **OTHER SKILLS**

---

- Involved in research on minorities perceptions of public lands and barriers to visitation of public lands
- Background in demographic studies and social sciences
- Experience in Microsoft Suite, Google Suite and various analytical software packages
- Conversational Spanish language proficiency

## **PERSONAL INTERESTS**

---

- Experience in backcountry travel, rock climbing, mountain biking, bike and climbing tour guiding, trail management and expedition guiding
- Western Slope Ambassador for Latino Outdoors

## **REFERENCES**

---

Dr. Corrine Knapp- Western State Colorado University Assistant Professor; 970-943-3154;  
cknapp@western.edu

Dr. Cheryl Howard- Univ. of Texas at El Paso Professor Emeritus; 575-536-3619;  
choward@utep.edu

Mara Dale- NatureBridge Mentor Teacher; 209-379-9511 ext. 34; mdale@naturebridge.org