



**Candidates for Election to the
Forest Resources & Ecosystem Science and Management Alumni Group Board of Directors**

The Forest Resources & Ecosystem Science and Management Alumni Group Board of Directors includes 12 at-large members who are elected to serve a three-year term, and who may serve a second consecutive term if re-elected.

Below, in alphabetical order, are brief biosketches of candidates running for Spring 2024 election to the board. Degrees listed are those earned in the School of Forest Resources/Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. Candidates noted with an asterisk () are incumbents.*

Vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlumniBoardElection>, or print the ballot and mail it to Ellen Rom, 114 Forest Resources Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.

Vote for no more than four candidates. Ballots must be received by Friday, March 1, 2024.

Eric Carlson (1979 M.S. Forest Resources)

Fifty years and many jobs create the need to be brief. I have had a diverse career that spanned working for USDA NRCS culminating as Senior Legislative, US EPA as Congressional State Liaison, and serving as President CEO Empire State Forest Products, Executive Director West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association, Executive Director West Virginia Forestry Association, and currently as Principal with Carlson Natural Resources LLC based in Tidioute, PA.

I was appointed by both political party leaders to serve on many boards including the PA DEP Advisory, PA DCNR Advisory, PA Environmental Quality Board, PA Mining Advisory, and NY Agriculture Advisory and the WVU Davis College Visiting Committee.

I served and supported many nonprofit and community organizations, helping youth programs wherever I have lived.

I enjoy being back in Pennsylvania and serving the community and state where I have been so privileged to live, work, and learn from my colleagues over the years.

Jamie Murphy Dahl (2004 B.S. Forest Science, 2006 M.S. Forest Resources)

I am an Assistant Professor in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources at Colorado State University (CSU). I teach graduate and undergraduate courses applying communications and social science in natural resource stewardship. I also teach the two-week forestry field camp at

the CSU Mountain Campus, a highlight of my summers (see story link on this class below). I run a graduate program in Communications for Conservation, and most of the students are working professionals from across the country. I engage with a few hundred college students across majors in the [Warner College of Natural Resources](#) yearly, and I love my job.

I have been an active Society of American Foresters (SAF) member for over 20 years. I am the outgoing chair of SAF's Diversity and Inclusion Working Group and the current chair of the Longs Peak Chapter in CO/WY SAF. I have co-organized two SAF Leadership academies targeting early-career professionals. I am also an active Project Learning Tree Facilitator.

I have been fortunate to have loved many jobs, thanks to my start at Penn State. My prior work experiences include forest management, volunteer management, training, communications, extension outreach, career coaching, education, and research consulting. I have worked in PA, CO, and OH, teaching at five colleges.

I completed my doctorate degree in Education and Human Resources from CSU in the summer of 2022. My research focuses on engagement and inclusion within natural resource organizations, utilizing mixed methods approaches and environmental justice principles, and I have had opportunities to share and replicate this work. I worked full-time through most of my doctoral studies. I was SAF's Mollie Beattie Visiting Scholar in Forest Policy in 2020-21.

At Penn State, I completed my Bachelor of Science in Forest Science and a Master of Science in Forest Resources, Wood Procurement, and Utilization. As a student, I was engaged in Xi Sigma Pi and was a student leader in the Society of American Foresters. I also worked through most of my undergraduate years, gaining valuable experiences with Dr. Todd Bowersox and Dr. Paul Smith.

My first full-time job was in the Penn State School of Forest Resources (now Ecosystem Science and Mgmt.) as the Undergraduate Program Coordinator and Instructor (from '06-'09). I advised and connected with about 300 students across our programs in Forest Science, Wildlife and Fisheries Science, and Wood Products at that time. I helped initiate the department-level career fair (with Ellen), which I believe still happens! I have very fond memories of both studying and working at Penn State.

I enjoy outdoor recreation and travel with Chris (partner and forestry alum '04 & '06) and our two young sons. We travel to PA a few times a year, and our whole crew enjoys hunting and fishing in the East and the West. I have been actively engaged in the [Women's Forest Congress](#) initiative, and below are two recent articles about some of my work at CSU. It would be an honor to give back to the ESM Department and alumni group. We Are!

[Women instructors make history leading CSU forestry class](#)

[Women in forestry contribute to future of their field at inaugural Women's Forest Congress](#)

Todd “Teddy” Fisher Jr. * (2014 B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science)

I earned my B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Penn State in 2014 and a M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at Clemson University in 2021. While attending Penn State, I was an active member and officer in the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a camp counselor for Outdoor School at Shaver’s Creek, a THON committee member, and a teaching assistant for the mammalogy course. I worked at the Penn State Deer Research Center gaining valuable research and animal care experience during my four years on campus. I also completed an internship with the Wildlife Leadership Academy, a conservation education field school for high school students, between my junior and senior year. This opportunity provided valuable networking opportunities and experience in conservation education. In 2014, I was honored to receive the John L. George Student Conservation Award from the department.

Following graduation, I worked as a wildlife technician for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission’s Montgomery Parks. I learned of this position from a fellow Penn State alumnus that I met through networking in The Wildlife Society during my time at Penn State. This position focused primarily on white-tailed deer management in the suburban and urban areas just north of Washington, D.C. and involved interacting with various stakeholder groups. Following this 9-month, term position, I accepted a summer technician position working with graduate students from Ball State University on an urban and rural white-tailed deer project in Bloomington, Indiana. This position allowed me to gain first-hand research experience and apply skills learned through my education at Penn State as we captured fawns and adult deer to place GPS and VHF collars on to track movement and survival in the surrounding areas. Following completion of this position, I returned to Montgomery Parks for another term position and was subsequently hired into a career position as a Wildlife Ecologist in 2016. In this position, I had a more active role in the white-tailed deer management program for the Parks system until my departure in the summer of 2018. In August of 2018, I decided to pursue a graduate research assistantship at Clemson University. My research there focused on human dimensions of wildlife and hunting, with projects focused on the impact of special hunting clinics for college students on the recruitment and retention of hunters and building a profile of wildlife management area hunters in South Carolina. During my time at Clemson, I had valuable opportunities to work in partnership with the state agency there and present research at various conferences. During my time at Clemson (2018-2020), I volunteered for the National Deer Alliance as a digital media specialist with a focus on social media content and contributing articles for the President’s Blog.

After completing my coursework, I began applying for jobs and was fortunate to be offered a position in my hometown as the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for York County Parks. I began this position in May of 2020. My role in this position is all encompassing of

various responsibilities when it comes to park management and in a leadership role. Included in my duties is the responsibility for the management of natural resources for the 11 county parks and over 4,500 acres of public land. This position gives me the opportunity to serve the community and parks that I grew up in here in York County, PA.

Following my graduation from Penn State, my career took me from Maryland to Indiana, back to Maryland again and then all the way to South Carolina. After several years, I have found my way back home to southcentral Pennsylvania where I can make weekend trips to Penn State anytime. I am an avid outdoorsman, spending my time hunting, fishing, hiking, and exploring the natural world as much as I can. A passion of mine that began when I was at Penn State is wildlife and nature photography and it is rare to see me without my camera within reach. I am also an avid Penn State football fan and attend nearly every home game with my father who has been a season ticket holder since 2006. I currently reside in Manheim, PA, with my wife, Steph, and our two Labrador retrievers, Remington and Bailey. We enjoy traveling together visiting national parks across the country and camping locally with the dogs.

April Sperflage (2013 A.S. Wildlife Technology, 2015 B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science)
Central Pennsylvania and Penns Woods had been my home for most of my life! I attended Penn State University (PSU) to earn an associate degree in Wildlife Technology and a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. Prior to graduating, I spent a semester abroad studying Wildlife Management in East Africa and conducting undergraduate research on the Effects of Invasive Plant Species on Ungulate Presence in the Ngorogoro Crater in 2014. During my time at Penn State, I worked in animal husbandry positions at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center and then at the Penn State Deer Research Center. During the summers of 2012-2014, I worked as an oak regeneration technician for the US Forest Service in Pennsylvania, a GIS Technician for PSU, and a flycatcher and cuckoo technician for the Bureau of Reclamation on the Rio Grande River in New Mexico.

After graduating from PSU, I was eager to donate most of my things to travel the United States and undertake various field technician positions. However, I was hired by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) to capture and radio collar white-tailed deer neonates, which I started only one day after graduation. This position led to a Deer Crew Leader position with the PGC. I led field crews to trap, collar, and track white-tailed deer for three more years, which was one of the most intense but rewarding positions and experiences I have had in my life. In 2018, I moved to Louisiana to work as a contracted Game Biologist on a military installation with Colorado State University. Here, I assisted to manage the game species program on the installation.

In 2022, I accepted a graduate position through the University of Nebraska at Omaha. My thesis research involved surveying the state of Nebraska, but primarily the Sandhills region

(the largest remaining intact grassland in the world) for Plains Spotted Skunks. In 2023, I moved back to New Mexico and am currently the state's Open Gate Program Coordinator. I coordinate the state program and facilitate in leasing private lands to improve public land access for hunters, anglers, and trappers. I am also a Women Who Explore New Mexico ambassador. I plan social events, particularly those involving outdoor recreation, to bring like-minded women together and help women become more comfortable in an outdoor setting.

While I absolutely love New Mexico and its diverse landscapes and people, Pennsylvania will always be my home. Without the experience I gained during my undergraduate years at Penn State, I would not be where or who I am today. It would be an honor to be involved with Penn State University again, but this time as an alumna, and to guide and continue to learn from other natural resource professionals.