Aaron Alai

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Statement of Propose

To begin a career that incorporates my training as an ecologist as well as my diverse skill set. I would relish the opportunity to work in group settings that transcend different disciplines and to communicate with the public.

Education

University of Nebraska-Lincoln — Lincoln, NE

- Master's Candidate, Natural Resources Sciences; Wildlife Ecology Specialization — Aug 2007-June 2010
- B.S., Fisheries and Wildlife; Mathematics Minor — Aug 2002-May 2007

Employment

University of Nebraska-Lincoln — Lincoln, NE
Graduate Research Assistant — Aug 2007-Present

- Developed and explored new hypotheses regarding the Textural Discontinuity Hypothesis
- Composed a thesis reviewing the Textural Discontinuity Hypothesis
- Developed protocols for extensive database organization and analysis
- Independently managed time and resources
- Collaborated with students and facility to develop novel methods of analysis
- Assisted peers and facility with fieldwork and quantitative analysis
- Completed ecologically relevant course work

Health and Human Services Systems — Lincoln, NE
Supervisor of Nebraska West Nile Virus Surveillance Team — May-Aug 2007

- Optimized surveillance protocols
- Selected employees for hiring
- Trained employees in
  - Mosquito trapping
  - Mosquito identification
  - Data entry
- Lead public discourse regarding
  - WNV transmission
  - Public health concerns
- Coordinated surveillance in Nebraska counties
- Collaborated with the University of Nebraska-Omaha for large scale WNV testing

The coordinated efforts of my team produced the first WNV surveillance season with a 100% positive response from all state and private organizations.

Health and Human Services Systems — Lincoln, NE
Technician for Nebraska West Nile Virus Surveillance Team — May-Aug 2006

- Trapped mosquitoes
- Identified mosquitoes to species
- Performed database entry and repair
- Repaired mosquito trapping mechanisms
- Assisted in WNV testing of raptors
- Collected and transported potentially infected mosquito and bird samples within the state
- Assisted in bioassays for midge insecticide concentrations
- Lead public demonstrations of mosquito trapping techniques

Employment Cont.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln — Lincoln, NE
Field Technician in McMurtry Wildlife Refuge — May-Aug 2005

- Trapped mosquitoes
- Identified mosquitoes to species
- Established transect lines
- Monitored wetland bird nests
- Acquired nestling blood samples
- Engaged in local public communication
- Conducted road-side bird audio and visual surveys
- Maintained and repaired electronic field equipment
- Established a computer network to compress and analyzing over 8TB of bird nest surveillance video footage

Technical and Computer Skills

- Computer languages
  - C++
  - Processing
- Circuit design and implementation
- Computer hardware installation
- Physical computing
- ArcGis
- Google Earth Pro
- Microsoft Office Suite 2007
- SAS
- SolidWorks

Awards

- Poster Competition: Predictive Distribution Model of the Invasive Species *Podarcis sicula*; Nebraska Invasive Species Project Conference — 2008
- Dean's list: fall 2006; spring 2007 — 2006-2007

Presentations

- *Examining Nomadic, Migratory, and Declining Species within the Context of the Textural Discontinuity Hypothesis*; Discontinuities in Complex Adaption Systems Conference International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) — Laxenburg, Austria 2008, November
- *Predictive Distribution Model of the Invasive Species Podarcis sicula* Nebraska Invasive Species Project Conference — Lincoln, Nebraska 2008, February

Certifications/Events

- Conservation Leaders For Tomorrow workshop — 2009
- Project Learning Tree certification (PLT) — 2008
- Project Water Education for Teachers certification (WET) — 2008

Teaching Experience/Volunteering

- On planning team for the production of an Ignite Lincoln event — 2009-Present
- After School Science Teacher; 3-5th grade, Everett and McPhee Elementary Schools — 2007-2008
- Child Advocate; Friendship Home Shelter and Support for Battered Women and Their Children — 2005-2006
- Tutor; 6-12th grade, Lighthouse Organization — 2004-2005