

ROSS C. WINTON

Curriculum Vitae

December 12, 2025

Westside Butterfly Species Recovery Lead
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Chair, AFWA Invertebrate & Pollinator Conservation Working Group
P.O. Box 43141
Olympia, WA 98504-3141
ross.winton@dfw.wa.gov

EDUCATION

M.S. – Entomology – May 2010, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT.
Thesis: The Effects of Succession and Disturbance on Coleopteran Diversity in the Centennial Sandhills.

B.S. – Fish & Wildlife Management – May 2005, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT.

CURRENT POSITION

March 2024 – Present Westside Butterfly Species Lead: **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**, Wildlife Program, Diversity Division, Olympia, WA.

Responsibilities: Conduct state-wide conservation and recovery - facilitation, coordination, and implementation for Taylor's Checkerspot, Mardon Skipper, and other butterfly species. Support development of Species of Greatest Conservation Need survey and monitoring protocols. Facilitate on the ground conservation and recovery actions, and habitat enhancement for butterfly Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Integrate federal and state priorities, management, and recovery actions to benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need with emphasis on Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. Produce and curate foundational agency documents in agency systems such as status assessments, recovery plans, conservation strategies and action plans. Provide technical guidance related to areas of expertise, communicate with Section Managers, Regional Biologists, Scientists, and other resource managers to inform, support and lead work planning for regional and other WDFW staff.

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

April 2019 – March 2024 **Invertebrate Biologist: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**, Nongame & Rare Species Program, Wildlife Division, Austin, TX.

Responsibilities: Responsible for all freshwater, subterranean, and terrestrial invertebrates of Texas (~65,000 species), including invasive species and their impact on the natural environment. Coordinate with department field staff, state and federal land managers, private landowners, and others in the formulation of habitat conservation recommendations and other conservation planning projects consistent with implementation of the Texas Conservation Action Plan (TCAP aka SWAP) and the Texas Land and Water Conservation and Recreation Plan. Develop, recommend, and/or review policies and incentive programs to address landscape threats and challenges to invertebrates indigenous to Texas as identified in the TCAP. Coordinate with contracted researchers and works with citizen scientists, landowners, and others to conduct inventory, monitoring, research, and habitat enhancement activities for invertebrates on private and public lands as assigned. Prepare and review contracts, technical and popular articles, and management brochures/bulletins. Review research proposals and manages projects using grant funds from Section 6, State Wildlife Grants, Conservation License Plate funds, Landowner Incentive Program, etc. Manage \$5.5 million dollars in grant funding via Section 6, State Wildlife Grants, Competitive State Wildlife Grants and Conservation License Plate funds. Lead status assessments of rare, threatened and endangered freshwater, subterranean, and terrestrial invertebrates and coordinates conservation planning activities. Assessed the status of close to 300 species. Serves as the agency lead for 40 ESA petitioned and listed non-mussel invertebrates in Texas and the review of SSA's, CH, CCAA's, HCP's and Recovery Planning, plus 400 SGCN and at-risk species.

May 2013 – April 2019 **Regional Wildlife Biologist: Idaho Department of Fish & Game**, Magic Valley Region, Jerome, ID.

Responsibilities: Implemented Idaho's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) at a regional (local) level. Coordinated, designed, and conducted wildlife surveys with an emphasis on nongame species classified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in Idaho's SWAP including multiple petitioned and listed species. Maintained a broad-based, multi-species inventory, survey, conservation and management program. Provided technical assistance and environmental document review on nongame, at risk, and threatened and endangered species such as Bliss Rapid Snail, Snake River Physa, Banbury Springs Lanx, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Sage Grouse, Columbia Spotted Frog, Bruneau Dunes Tiger Beetle, Pygmy Rabbit, Wolverine and all Idaho bat species. Identified wildlife habitat needs/opportunities and helped implement appropriate habitat management or restoration projects with an emphasis on benefitting high priority species in Idaho's SWAP. Participated on interagency committees and local working groups involving nongame and watchable wildlife issues. Developed interagency ESA Section 6 and Challenge Cost Share projects for SWAP species and their habitats such as sage grouse, Bruneau Dunes tiger beetle, pygmy rabbit, golden eagle and yellow-billed cuckoo.

May 2010 – May 2013 **Senior Wildlife Technician: Idaho Department of Fish & Game**, Cecil D. Andrus Wildlife Management Area, Cambridge, ID

Responsibilities: Implemented habitat management and restoration techniques including seeding, planting, and noxious weed control. Maintain fences, roads, buildings and grounds. Trained and supervise two seasonal and one eight month technician. Served as the department liaison to the public and other agencies regarding issues pertaining to IDFG and the WMA. Serve as the department representative at all Washington County Cooperative Weed Management Meetings. Conducted wildlife counts and collected wildlife census data. Planned and implemented the first annual Andrus WMA Bioblitz to identify all species found to inhabit the various habitats found within the WMA borders. Supported IDFG personnel and provided technical expertise in conducting insect surveys focusing on current state species of greatest conservation need. Planned and implemented insect surveys designed to identify the plant associations of various insect species potentially beneficial to upland game birds in the diet of recently hatched broods in particular pheasant and sage grouse. Three month full time duty assignment to assist headquarters and regional department staff in the logistical coordination and planning of the Idaho Wildlife Summit. Assisted WMA manager in drafting management strategy for all SWAP species within 25 miles of the management area. Coordinated efforts with diversity program staff on SWAP species inclusion and addition of rare plants to the WMA plan.

August 2008 - May 2010 **Research Assistant: Beetle Tree of Life Project, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Assistant Curator: Montana Entomology Collection, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT** Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

Responsibilities: Digital imaging and data basing of Coleoptera specimens for use by the Beetle Tree of Life (BToL) and Tree of Life (ToL) Projects. Student instruction focused on insect ecology, biodiversity and identification as a prerequisite to advanced insect identification. Maintained loan records and collection specimens. Served as a liaison to the public, particularly youth, in an effort to educate them on local insect fauna and their role in ecosystems. These positions included work outside of graduate curriculum.

August 2008 - May 2010 **Masters Student: Entomology**, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

Literature synthesis: Role of fire and grazing disturbances in the population dynamics of coleopteran communities in Montana sandhill ecosystems. Field studies: Design and implementation of a two year thesis project. Collection of data on the impact of disturbance on beetles (Coleoptera). In particular, fire and grazing, resulting in the destabilization of sandhills and restoration of native sagebrush steppe ecosystems. Management and analysis of project databases with Excel, SAS, R, and EstimateS.

February 2009 - May 2010 **Research Assistant: West Indian Beetle Fauna Project**, St. Lucia, West Indies

Field study: Insect inventory and biodiversity assessment in addition to the habitat associations of all known species with particular emphasis on rare species and their vanishing habitats. This study was conducted in collaboration with the European Commission, The Banana Trust and Flora & Fauna International. This position included work outside of graduate curriculum.

FUNDING RECEIVED OR MANAGED

\$1,333,579. Competitive State Wildlife Grant. Prioritizing Native Bee Species for Conservation and Developing Tools to Support Habitat Management. Project Manager. PI's: Ross Winton, Sarina Jepsen, Hollis Woodard, Hillary Sardinas, Taylor Cotton. 2024 to 2028.

\$154,000. State Wildlife Grant. Texas Coastal Plain Assessment of Freshwater Decapods. Project Manager. TX-T-200-R-1. PI: Christopher Patrick, William & Mary: Virginia Institute of Marine Science. 2020 to 2022.

\$190,966. State Wildlife Grant. Texas Cave Invertebrate Phylogenomics and Databasing. F23AP02935. Project Manager. Lead PI: Marshal Hedin, San Diego State University. 2023 to 2024.

\$390,000. State Wildlife Grant. Conservation status evaluation of Trans-Pecos SGCN groundwater-dependent invertebrates. F19AF01156. Project Manager. Lead PI's: Benjamin Schwartz, Benjamin Hutchins, Kathryn Perez, Pete Diaz, Texas State University. 2020 to 2023.

\$600,000. State Wildlife Grant. Multi-year Investigation of Restoration Impacts on Pollinator Communities & Plant-Pollinator Interactions. Project Manager. Lead PI: Shalene Jha, University of Texas. 2020 to 2025.

\$500,000. State Wildlife Grant. Conservation Assessment of 165 Texas Dragonflies Focusing on the 24 Most Imperiled. F19AF00024. Project Manager. Lead PI: John Abbott, The University of Alabama. 2019 to 2023.

\$492,000. State Wildlife Grant. Mobilizing TAMU Insect Collection Resources to Improve Texas Insect SGCN Assessments. F21AF00149. Project Manager. Lead PI: John Oswald, Texas A&M University. 2020 to 2024.

\$300,000. State Wildlife Grant. Texas Underground: Modernizing the Historic Texas Cave Invertebrate Collections. Project Manager. Lead PI: Alex Wild, University of Texas. 2020 to 2024.

\$161,000. State Wildlife Grant. Checklist Development and Conservation Status Assessment of Texas Native Bees. F22AF03320-00. Project Manager. Lead PI: Elinor Lichtenberg, University of North Texas. 2023 to 2026.

\$8,000. Texas Conservation License Plate Fund. Digitization of Texan Orthoptera Holdings in the Mississippi Entomological Museum. Project Manager. Lead PI: JoVonn Hill, Mississippi State University.

\$161,537. State Wildlife Grant. Texas Native Bee Conservation Status Assessment and Digitizing the UNT Invertebrate Collection. F21AF02917. Project Manager. Lead PI: Elinor Lichtenberg, University of North Texas. 2020 to 2024.

\$100,000. State Wildlife Grant. Digitization of Rare Texas Groundwater Invertebrate Collections. F22AF03325. Project Manager. Lead PI: Benjamin Hutchins, Texas State University. 2022 to 2024.

\$107,000. State Wildlife Grant. Digitization of the bee (Hymenoptera: Anthophila) holdings at Texas Tech University with DNA barcoding for species of interest. F22AF03334. Project Manager. Lead PI: Scott Longing, Texas Tech University. 2022 to 2024.

\$193,000. State Wildlife Grant. Comprehensive Conservation Assessment of Texas Tiger Beetles (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae). F22AF03682-00. Project Manager. Lead PI: Dan Duran, Rowan University. 2023 to 2025.

\$202,291. State Wildlife Grant. Increasing the Capacity of Texas Pollinator Conservation. F23AF01749. Project Manager. Lead PI: Shalene Jha, University of Texas. 2023 to 2024.

\$461,000. State Wildlife Grant. A Large Data Framework for Preliminary Conservation Assessments of Texas Arthropods UT Insect Database. Project Manager. Lead PI: Alex Wild, University of Texas. 2023 to 2026.

\$79,462. State Wildlife Grant. Endangered Species Section 6. Trophic Ecology, Environmental Tolerances, and Population Genetics of the Endangered Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle *Stygoparnus comalensis*). F19AP00295. Project Manager. Lead PI: Weston Nowlin, Texas State University. 2018 to 2021.

\$534,060. Competitive State Wildlife Grant. Identifying and Implementing Conservation Actions for Bumble Bee Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Idaho and Washington. F17AP00811. Project Manager. Lead PI's: Rich Hatfield, Ross Winton, Ann Potter, Andony Melathopoulos. 2017 to 2020.

\$13,333. Endangered Species Section 6. Bruneau Dunes Tiger Beetle Habitat Restoration, CDFA 15.615. F14AF01161. Principal Investigator: Lead PI: Ross Winton. 2014 to 2015.

\$26,666. Endangered Species Section 6. Bruneau Dunes Tiger Beetle Habitat Restoration, CDFA 15.615. F13AF01071. Principal Investigator: Lead PI: Ross Winton. 2013 to 2015.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Awad, Jessica, Gagandeep Brar, Erin Cadwalader, DeShae Dillard, Lauren A Esposito, Elaine Evans, Christina Grozinger, Kelsey E Fisher, Akito Y Kawahara, Christian H Krupke, Andrea Lucky, Richard Mankin, Corrie S Moreau, Avalon C S Owens, Emily L Sandall, Katja C Seltmann, Jessica L Ware, **Ross Winton**. Defining the decline: a glossary relevant to insect decline. 2005. Journal of Insect Science 25(3).

Cheryl Barr, B. Schwartz, B. Hutchins, **Ross C. Winton**. *Typhloelmis spangleri*, description of a fourth stygobiant Elmid from Texas. 2024. Coleopterists Bulletin 77(4)..

Monica M. Gotschall, John L. Bowley, **Ross C. Winton**, Kelley A. Willemssens, Braymond Adams, Leon G. Higley, Robert K.D. Peterson. 2021. County Records of Cicindelidia punctulata (Olivier) (Coleoptera: Carabidae) in Idaho, USA. The Coleopterists Bulletin 75(4):812-814.

66th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Denver, CO November 2017. **Ross C. Winton**. Invasive species encroachment and dune stabilization in the Aeolian systems of southern Idaho and its impact on endemic species of greatest conservation need.

Michael G. Kippenhan, David W. Brzoska, **Ross C. Winton**, Michael A. Ivie. 2013. New records for *Brasiella argentata pallipes* Fleutiaux and Sallé (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Cincidolinae) in the West Indies. Coleopterist Bulletin 67(4):411-415.

42nd Annual Meeting of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Boise, ID March 2012. **Ross C. Winton** and Andy Ogden. Pheasant chick insect food sources in southwest Idaho and their plant associations, with habitat management suggestions to maximize insect production.

42nd Annual Meeting of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Boise, ID March 2012. **Ross C. Winton**. The Effects of Succession and Disturbance on Coleopteran Abundance and Diversity in Aeolian Sand Habitats.

58th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, San Diego, CA December 2010. Crystal A. Maier; Michael A. Ivie; **Ross C. Winton**. Hot *Hydroscapha*: Finding potential hydroscaphid habitat in hot springs in Idaho.

Ross C. Winton, Michael G. Kippenhan and Michael A. Ivie. 2010. New State Record for *Cicindela arenicola* Rumpf (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Cicindelinae) in Southwestern Montana. *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 64(1):43-44.

Ross C. Winton. 2010. The Effects of Succession and Disturbance on Coleopteran Diversity in the Centennial Sandhills. Montana State University Libraries. M.S. Thesis.

57th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Indianapolis, IN Dec 2009. Michael A. Ivie;

Donald E. Bright; Andrew R. Cline; Ian A. Foley; Matthew L. Gimmel; Katie J. Hopp; Eli A. Ivie; LaDonna L. Ivie; J.B. "Ding" Johnson; Crystal A. Maier; Stewart B. Peck; **Ross C. Winton**. Poster: The beetles of St. Lucia, West Indies: Literature records vs. expedition findings vs. predicted outcomes.

57th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Indianapolis, IN Dec 2009. Michael A. Ivie; Derek S. Sikes; Crystal A. Maier; **Ross C. Winton**. Poster: The Coleoptera of Saba, West Indies.

Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Bozeman, MT February 2004. **Ross C. Winton**. The status and current management in Southern California of T&E species *Euphydryas editha quino* (Quino Checkerspot).

AWARDS & TRAINING

- USFWS Region 2 Partner of the Year Award, 2021
- Lorax Award, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2018
- Employee of the Year, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2013
- Trained in the use of various biological and entomological field equipment. Malaise traps, pitfall traps, Flight intercept traps, UV and MV lights, mist nets, baited trapping, fogging and smoking, radio telemetry (UHF & VHF), PTT tracking systems, Anabat & Wildlife Acoustics Hardware, Analook & Sonobat Software, GPS & GIS units & software (through ArcPro 3.6).
- Trained in and participated in survey and assessment involving the handling of live and preserved biological taxa, including but not limited to:
 - o Avian (White & Brown Pelican, Least Tern, Snowy Plover, Sage & Sharp-tailed Grouse, Least Bell's Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo).
 - o Invertebrate (aquatic, terrestrial, groundwater arthropods, gastropods and bivalves).
 - o Reptile & Amphibian (Frogs, Toads, Salamanders, western turtles).
 - o Small Mammals (mice, voles, shrews, pygmy rabbit, various hares, most species of western U.S. bat).
- A-100 IAT Flight Safety for fixed wing and rotary aircraft.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo Visual and Vocal identification training and survey methods. USFWS certified surveyor.
- Bat acoustic collection and analysis methods. Anabat, Wildlife Acoustics, Petterssons. Use of Analook, Sonobat and Kaleidoscope analysis tools. 5 days of acoustic training with bat handling instruction (2014) and rabies vaccination (2024 titre). Ten years of handling and white-nose monitoring experience.
- Certified in Chemical Immobilization and transportation of avian and mammalian species.
- Trained in the handling and monitoring of sensitive cave and spring fauna. Ten years of experience with multiple petitioned and listed species.
- Trained in NEPA policy, procedure and guidance.
- Office of Conservation Investment (USFWS) – Basic and Advanced Grant Management Training (BGM/AGM)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES & ORGANIZATIONS

- Entomological Society of America, Member, 2007 – present
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), Working Group Chair, 2021 - Present
- National Speleological Society, Member, Conservation Division, 2014- present
- Entomological Collections Network, Member, 2007 – 2024
- The Coleopterists Society, Member, 2008 – 2024
- The Wildlife Society, Member, 2001 – 2020
- Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Member, Vice President & President, 2010 - 2020
- R.A. Cooley Entomology Club, Co-Founder & Past President, 2007-2011
- Montana State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Member & Treasurer, 2001 - 2004.