

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Aletris Marie Neils

Permanent address:  
3755 West Driscoll Lane  
Tucson, Arizona 85745 USA

Cell: (602) 717-2406  
Office: (520) 743-7686  
Email: aletris\_neils@yahoo.com

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#### PERSONAL

Born in Phoenix, Arizona; 20 December  
US Citizen  
Health: Excellent, non-smoker, 20/20 vision  
Felid Anesthesia Certificate (University of Florida's Veterinary School) –2007  
First Aid and CPR certified – since 2002, recertified in August 2007  
Airboat and Motorboat Operator Certified (US Department of Interior) -- November 2007  
Wildland Firefighting Certified (US Forest Service/ The Nature Conservancy) -- 2007  
Chemical Immobilization of Animals (Safe Capture International) – Internationally certificated since 2005

#### EDUCATION

University of Arizona, School of Natural Resources, Tucson, Arizona -- (PhD Candidate)  
-- Wildlife Conservation and Management  
-- Minors in Conflict Resolution and Applied Anthropology  
-- Advisor: Dr. Melanie Culver  
-- Dissertation: Caracals in a heterogeneous landscape; resolutions for human/ wildcat conflicts  
-- 4.0 GPA

University of Florida, School of Natural Resources and Environment, Gainesville, Florida -- (MSc 2011)  
-- Thesis: Ecology of the Florida Black Bear across the Urban Wildlife Interface of Ocala National Forest  
-- Advisor: Dr. Melvin Sunquist  
-- Minor in Wildlife Conservation and Management  
-- 4.0 GPA

Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona -- (BSc with Honors 2003)  
-- Majored in Conservation Biology; minor in Women's Studies  
-- Graduated Magna Cum Laude  
-- Awarded Freshman Achievement Scholarship  
-- Dean's list all semesters

#### AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

-- University of Arizona's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Scholarship (2013)  
-- International Collaboration Award presented from UA's School of Natural Resources and Environment (2013)  
-- Rachel Carson Environmental Scholarship (2013)  
-- Wild Felid Association Award (2012)  
-- UA Scholarship (2012)  
-- The Wildlife Society- Leadership Institute Candidate (2012)  
-- Graduate Teaching Assistant Award Nominee (2012) - highest teaching honor at University of Arizona  
-- CALS E. Zube Scholarship (2011)  
-- AZ Association of Environmental Professionals Scholarship (2011)  
-- Pat & Miriam Reid Achievement Scholarship (2011)  
-- Fulbright Fellowship (2010-2011)  
-- BioME, National Science Foundation Teaching Fellowship (2009-2010)  
-- Natural Resource Scholarship for Exceptional Incoming Student – (2008)  
-- University of Florida's Graduate Teaching Assistant Award (2007) – highest teaching honor at UF

Aletris M. Neils - CV

- Agricultural Women & Vam C. York Graduate Scholarship (2006)
- Edward Abbey Young Conservationist Award (2003)

### **AREAS OF INTEREST**

Conservation biology, Mammalogy, Carnivore ecology, & Human-carnivore conflict resolution

### **ORGANIZATIONS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Society for Conservation Biology

North America Section

- Board Member (2010- Present)

Chapter Advisory Committee

- Co- Chair & New Chapters Coordinator (2007- 2013)

Florida Chapter

- Founder and President (April 2004 – January 2008)

Central Arizona Chapter

- President (December 2000 - September 2002)

The Wildlife Society (2004 - present)

International Wildlife Management Working Group Board Member (2013- present)

Leadership Institute (2012)

Arizona Chapter member (2010 – present)

University of Florida Student Chapter graduate representative (2006)

Florida Chapter member (2004- 2008)

Large Carnivore Management Association of Namibia Member (2010 – Present)

Wild Felid Research and Management Association (2010- present)

Caracal Working Group Chair (2012- present)

Graduate Student Associations

University of Arizona's Natural Resources Graduate Association student curriculum representative (2009)

University of Florida's School of Natural Resources and Environment Graduate Association

- President (2007)

- Activities coordinator (2006)

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Conservation CATalyst, Tucson, Arizona -- (May 2008 – present)

- Position: Executive Director, Founder

- Description: Operate a NGO; fundraise; direct international feline research & education programs

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona -- (May 2013 – present) Falls only

- Position: Lecturer

- Description: Design and direct mammalogy course; direct field trips; supervise multiple TAs

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona -- (August 2011 – March 2013) Falls only

- Position: Teaching Assistant

- Description: Teach wildlife ecology and management techniques; direct field trips and labs

Cheetah Conservation Fund, Otjiwarongo, Namibia -- (May 2010 – March 2011)

- Position: Senior Research and Education Specialist for Conservation Biology Courses

- Description: Teach conservation biology courses for international course participants

Aletris M. Neils - CV

University of Florida International Center, Gainesville, Florida -- (October 2007 – May 2009)

-- Position: Namibia Program Director

-- Description: Develop & direct a study abroad program; teach five wildlife courses; oversee research  
US Geological Service, 7920 NW 71<sup>st</sup>, Gainesville, Florida -- (May 2007 – May 2009)

-- Position: Biological Scientist

-- Description: Write/ review reports & manuscripts; aquatic field research; isotope lab work

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida -- (January 2005 – August 2008)

-- Position: Graduate Student Teaching Assistant

-- Description: Teach wildlife identification and natural history, lecture, and direct field trips

University of Florida Athletic Association, Gainesville, Florida -- (August 2006 – November 2007)

-- Position: Science Tutor

-- Description: Tutor the men's basketball team and other student athletes in science and math

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Gainesville, Florida -- (May 2006 – January 2007)

-- Position: Black Bear Biologist

-- Description: Trap, immobilize, and monitor Florida black bears; manage interns and volunteers

Wildlife Conservation Society, Mesoamerica Office, Gainesville, Florida -- (May 2005 – May 2006)

-- Position: Crocodilian Specialist

-- Description: Write manuscripts/ manuals/ reports; manage accounts; crocodilian captures/ field research

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Gainesville, Florida -- (September 2004 – January 2006)

-- Position: Small Game Check Station Employee, Parker field

-- Description: Collect data on harvested game and inform hunters on regulations; supervise volunteers

University of Florida, FLREC, 3205 College Ave., Davie, Florida -- (January 2004 – January 2005)

-- Position: Wildlife Research Biologist

-- Description: Catch/ survey American crocodiles and alligators, operate boats, & write proposals/ grants

Phoenix Zoo, 455 North Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, Arizona -- (March 2001 – January 2004)

-- Position: Program Specialist, Conservation Coordinator Intern

-- Description: Educate public on wildlife, ecosystems, and conservation; handle and present animals;  
attend wildlife meetings, write reports and recommendations for T&E AZ wildlife

Borderland Jaguars, Tucson, Arizona -- (May 2002 - January 2004)

-- Position: Carnivore Research Technician

-- Description: Analyze hair samples, field tracking, monitor hair snares & camera traps for jaguar & puma

Awakening Seed School, Phoenix, Arizona -- (October 2003 – January 2004)

-- Position: Substitute Teacher

-- Description: Teach classes from pre-school to fifth grade

Animal Planet/ Discovery Channel, *King of the Jungle* -- (August 2003 - December 2003)

-- Position: Animal Expert Competitor

-- Description: Perform extreme physical challenges, handle and present exotic wildlife on camera

Arizona Game and Fish, 555 North Greasewood Road, Tucson, Arizona -- (summer 2002, 2003)

-- Position: Non-Game Field Biologist Intern

-- Description: Survey vertebrates, beaver impact assessment, band raptors, and mist-net bats

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Guadalupe Mt. National Park, Texas -- (February 2003 - April 2003)

-- Position: Independent Contractor

-- Description: Mountain lion dietary analysis in relation to potential bighorn sheep reintroduction

Cheetah Conservation Fund/ Round River Conservation, Namibia, Africa -- (September 2002 - January 2003)

-- Position: Student Research Assistant

-- Description: Develop and test non-invasive methods to census felid populations; assist with monitoring

black rhinos; assist with trapping, immobilizing of felids and other wildlife

Arizona State University, Department of Biology, Tempe, Arizona -- (summer 2003)

-- Position: Mammalogy and Techniques in Conservation Biology Teacher's Assistant

-- Description: Teach mammal identification, demonstrate field techniques, and oversee research projects

### **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

Agricultural Association of Namibia, Keetmonshoop, Namibia- (2010 – Present)

-- Give presentations on mitigating conflicts with predators on farmlands

-- Recommend humane capture techniques

Saguaro National Park, Tucson, AZ—(Fall 2011)

-- Scientist for BioBlitz

-- Capture and handle mammals and translate techniques to the general public

Gray Hawk Nature Center, Sierra Vista, AZ – (Spring 2010)

-- Design & direct a 3 day camping trip/ ecology field course for 72- 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders

Society for Conservation Biology, Gainesville, FL – (September 2007 – January 2009)

-- Design and coordinate a wildlife track identification, sign recognition, and data collection workshop

-- Develop a long term wildlife monitoring program for over 30 people to examine the effects of road expansion on black bears in the Ocala National Forest

Wildlife Care Center, Fort Lauderdale FL -- (May 2004 – December 2004)

-- Assist in capture, immobilization, and rehabilitation of injured wildlife

-- Educational presentations about living with wildlife

Sky Island Alliance, Tucson, Arizona -- (May 2001 – January 2004)

-- Carnivore tracking and monitoring transects

-- Road inventories, restoration, and closures

Northern Jaguar project, Sierra de los Pavos, Sonora, Mexico -- (summer 2003)

-- Radio telemetry triangulation of collared jaguars and pumas, track small cats and other carnivores

-- Monitor camera traps

Phoenix Zoo, Phoenix, Arizona -- (January 2001 – May 2003)

-- Ramsey Canyon leopard frog breeding program and reintroduction

-- Black-footed ferret breeding program

-- Arizona Trail animal exhibits

Arizona Game and Fish Check Stations -- (September 2001 - February 2002)

-- Quail; Rabbit; Deer; Sandhill Crane; Javelina

Arizona Partners in Flight, Laveen, Arizona -- (November 2001)

-- Burrowing owl habitat restoration and reintroduction

Active Conservation Activities:

-- Directed a workshop on living with wildlife to the Boy Scouts of America; Florida – (January 2007)

-- Guided field trips & presented information on living with bears; Umatilla bear festival -- (2005, 2006)

-- Removed exotic invasive flora and fauna; Florida Keys, Florida -- (May 2006)

-- Tracked mountain lion and other large mammals; Fort Huachuca, Arizona -- (June 2001-2003)

-- Cetacean transect surveys; Baja California, Mexico -- (March 2003)

-- Seining and identification of native and exotic fish; Araivipa Canyon, Arizona -- (April 2002)

-- Razor-backed sucker adult and larvae capture and tag; Lake Mojave, Nevada -- (March 2002)

-- Canada goose family count; Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California -- (January 2002)

-- Black-tailed prairie dog habitat restoration and relocation; Nutt, New Mexico -- (August 2001)

**PRIMARY RESEARCH PROJECTS**

<i><b>Project</b></i>	<i><b>Role</b></i>	<i><b>Years</b></i>
Namibian Caracals	Primary Investigator	2010 – present
Namibian Mesocarnivores	Primary Investigator	2010 – present
Mexican Brown-nosed Opossums	Primary Investigator	2013 – present
Sonoran Ocelots	Co-Primary Investigator	2013 – present
Arizona Bobcats	Primary Investigator	2013 – present
Cheetahs & Leopards	Researcher	2008- 2010
Florida Black Bears- Urban Ecology	Primary Investigator	2005 – 2008
Black Bear Genetics/ Population Estimations	Researcher	2005 – 2008
American Crocodiles	Researcher	2003 – 2004
Belize Jaguars	Primary Investigator	2004
American Alligators	Researcher	2004
Arizona Jaguars	Researcher	2001-2003
Borderland Puma Monitoring	Researcher	2002-2003
Sonoran Jaguars	Researcher	2002 - 2003
Gila Vertebrate Biodiversity	Researcher	2002 - 2003
Spotted Skunks	Researcher	2002

**RELEVANT COURSES TAKEN**

Advanced Conservation Biology I and II	Mammalogy	Genetics
Techniques in Conservation Biology	Ornithology	Ecology
Marine Conservation Biology	Herpetology	Calculus
Analysis and Management of Animal Populations	Animal Physiology	Organic Chemistry
Community Natural Resource Management	Animal Movement Statistics	Wildlife Research Design
Wildlife Ecology	Restoration Ecology	Environmental Sociology
Mammalian Carnivores	Population Ecology	Sampling Statistics
Zooarcheology	Impacts of Wildlife Diseases	GIS in Research
Landscape Ecology	Ecological Techniques	Flora & Fauna
Conservation Genetics	Ecological Theory	Sonoran Desert Discovery
Conflict Resolution in Natural Resources	Applied Anthropology	Prof. Grant Writing

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

<i><b>Course</b></i>	<i><b>Role</b></i>	<i><b>Years</b></i>	<i><b>Institution</b></i>
Mammalogy	Instructor- design class/labs	2013	University of Arizona
Wildlife Management	TA – design & direct labs/ trips	2012	University of Arizona
Wildlife Management for Mammals	TA – design & direct labs/ trips	2011	University of Arizona
Conservation Biology	Instructor- direct classes and trips	2010/1	Cheetah Conserv. Fund
Namibian Flora and Fauna	Instructor- design & direct class	2008/9	University of Florida
Namibian Heritage	Instructor- design & direct class	2008/9	University of Florida
Ecological Techniques	Instructor- design & direct class	2008/9	University of Florida
Wildlife Research Techniques	Instructor- design & direct class	2008/9	University of Florida
Wildlife Conservation & Management	Instructor- design & direct class	2008/9	University of Florida
Wildlife of Florida	TA – design & direct labs/ trips	2007/8	University of Florida
Wildlife Issues	TA – guest lecture & support	2007/8	University of Florida
Conservation Biology	TA – design & direct labs	2006/7	University of Florida
Habitat Management	TA – direct field trips/ grading	2006	University of Florida
Conservation Biology Field Techniques	TA - direct field trips	2003	Arizona State University
Mammalogy	TA - design labs/direct field trips	2003	Arizona State University

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Neils, A.** and M. Hemami. 2013. Habitat Suitability Modeling for Caracals (*Caracal caracal shmitzi*) and Jebeer Gazelle (*Gazella bennettii*) in Abbas Abad Prohibited Hunting Area, Iran. (In Prep).
- Irajy, F., M. Hemami, and **A. Neils**. 2013. A GIS-based Approach for Zoning Protected Areas: Selecting Recreation Zones in Abbas-Abad Wildlife Refuge, Central Iran. (In Prep).
- Neils, A.** and J. W. McCown. 2012. Florida Black Bears (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) at the Urban-Wildland Interface: Are They Different? Conservation Biology (In Prep).
- Hostetler, J., J. W. McCown, E. Garrison, **A. Neils**, M. Sunquist, S. Simek, and M. Oli. 2009. Demographic consequences of anthropogenic influences: Florida black bears in north-central Florida. Biological Conservation. 142(11): 2456-2463.
- Demopoulous, A., **A. Neils**, and D. Gualtieri. 2009. Synthesis of available information for Florida East and West Coasts relevant to evaluating potential environmental impacts associated with offshore sand dredging for beach and coastal restoration. USGS. Final Report.
- Neils, Aletris** and Christopher Bugbee. 2007. *RANA CATESBEIANA* (American Bullfrog) diet. Herpetological Review. 38(4): 443.
- Neils, A.** 2004. Accessorized Alligators: Aquatic Reptiles Telemetry Research. Turtle River Times. 8:3.

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

- Neils, A.**, M. Cook, and C. Ayers. 2012. Increasing Diversity in the Wildlife Profession. Presented to the Council at the Wildlife Society meeting. Portland, Oregon. July 2012.
- Neils, A.** 2012. The Madrean Chapter of SCB. Presented at the NA SCB Congress. Oakland, California. July 2012.
- Neils, A.** 2012. Caracal Conservation in a Heterogeneous Landscape. Presented at the International Wildlife Management Congress. Durban, South Africa. June 2012.
- Neils, A.** 2011. Caracal Conservation. Presented at the Wildlife Society Conference. Hawaii, USA. October 2011.
- Neils, A.** and F. Nagle. 2010. Capacity Building for Society for Conservation Biology Chapters and Conservation Organizations. Presented at the Global Congress for Conservation Biology. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. July 2010.
- Neils, A.** 2010. Data Gaps in Caracal (*Caracal caracal*) and Serval (*Leptailurus serval*) Natural History. Presented at the Namibian Wildlife Meeting, Otjiwarongo, Namibia. June 2010.
- Neils, A.** 2010. Feasibility of Re-establishing Grizzly Bears (*Ursus arctos*) into the Southwest. Presented at the Wildlife Society SW Meeting, Flagstaff, AZ. February 2010.
- Neils, A.** 2009. The Ecological Role of Spots in Felids. Presented at the Conway Ecology Symposium, Tucson, AZ. November 2009.
- Neils, A.** 2009. The Role of Chapters in the Society for Conservation Biology. Presented at the Global Congress for Conservation Biology. Beijing, China. July 2009.
- Neils, A.** 2008. Global Chapters of the Society for Conservation Biology. Presented at the Colorado Plateau Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology Meeting. Lees Ferry, AZ. October 2008.
- Neils, Aletris**. 2008. Getting the Adult Community Involved in Conserving Local Wildlife: A Case Study from Florida. Presented at the Society for Conservation Biology Meeting. Chattanooga, TN. July 2008
- Neils, Aletris** et al., 2007. Ecology of the Florida Black Bear across the Urban Wildlife Interface of ONF. Presented at the Society for Conservation Biology Meeting. Port Elizabeth, South Africa. July 2007.
- Neils, Aletris** et al., 2006. Ecology of the Florida Black Bear across the Urban Wildlife Interface of Ocala National Forest. Presented at the Carnivores Conference. St. Petersburg, Florida. November 2006.
- Neils, Aletris** et al., 2005. Florida Black Bear Ecology and Conservation. Presented at the Cooperative Committee Meeting. Gainesville, Florida. March 2005.

## **SELECTED RESEARCH FEATURED IN THE MEDIA**

- Cat Fancy Magazine, September 2013, "The Most Hunted Cat in the World A little-known cat species, the caracal faces numerous threats". By: Brad Kollus.
- National Geographic Kids Magazine, April 2013, "The Secret Life of the Caracal."
- Agriforum Magazine, May 201, Rooikat
- Agriforum Magazine, April 2013, Namibian Farmers of the Year Award
- The Namibian Newspaper, Caracals

Namibian Public Radio, July 2011 “ Caracal research on Farmlands”  
New York Times, 2008, Sturgeon.

### **PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHY**

<i><b>Publishing Body</b></i>	<i><b>Date</b></i>
Cat Fancy Magazines	September 2013
Agriforum Magazine	June 2013
National Geographic Kids	April 2013
The Namibian	May 2013, July 2012

### **OUTSIDE INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Interests: Tracking, photography, organic gardening, SCUBA, kayaking, cooking, hiking, & camping  
Dance: Ballet, modern, jazz, cheer, Argentine tango, salsa, ballroom, and country  
Language: French and beginning Afrikaans  
Travel: Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Mexico, Canada, Bahamas, Haiti, France, United Kingdom, China, and Belize

### **REFERENCES**

- Dr. Andrew Smith  
School of Life Sciences  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, Arizona 85287  
(480) 965-4024  
[a.smith@asu.edu](mailto:a.smith@asu.edu)
- Dr. Melanie Culver  
AZ Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit  
Wildlife Conservation and Management Program  
University of Arizona  
213 Bioscience East  
Tucson, AZ 85721  
(520) 626-3775  
[culver@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:culver@ag.arizona.edu)
- Dr. John L. Koprowski  
Professor  
Wildlife Conservation and Management  
School of Natural Resources and the Environment  
306 Biological Sciences East  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721 USA  
<http://www.snr.arizona.edu/people/koprowski>  
[www.ag.arizona.edu/~squirrel](http://www.ag.arizona.edu/~squirrel)  
[www.ag.arizona.edu/research/redsquirrel](http://www.ag.arizona.edu/research/redsquirrel)  
Phone: (520) 626-5616  
[squirrel@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:squirrel@ag.arizona.edu)