

Michael M Brunson

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EDUCATION

- Kansas State University** 2021
Doctor of Philosophy; Park Management and Conservation
Dissertation Title: *Plans for the Future: An Examination of Research Methodology and Education in Parks and Protected Area Visitor Use Management*
- Prescott College** 2017
Master of Arts; Environmental Studies/Environmental Education
Thesis Title: *Conservation Strategies for Eastern Brook Trout (Salvelinus fontinalis; Salmonidae): A Comparative Analysis of Management Plans, Stocking Habits, and Angler Attitudes*
- Northern Arizona University** 2009
Bachelor of Science; Parks & Recreation Management/Outdoor Leadership & Education
- Canisius College** 2006
Bachelor of Art; History/Classical Studies
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ACADEMIC AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Kansas State University** 2022-
Assistant Teaching Professor; Graduate Faculty
- Courses Taught Manhattan, KS
PMC 120: Leave No Trace Trainer Certification
PMC 275: Introduction to Natural Resource Management
PMC 350: Parks and Outdoor Recreation Practicum
PMC 475: Natural History for Park Professionals
PMC 489: Outdoor Recreation Program and Event Planning
PMC 580: Park Operations and Maintenance Management
PMC 635: Methods of Environmental Interpretation
PMC 690: Parks and Recreation Administration
- Undergraduate Programs Coordinator* 2022-
- Instructor/Academic Advisor* 2020-2022
- Courses Taught
PMC 120: Leave No Trace Trainer Certification
PMC 275: Introduction to Natural Resource Management

PMC 350: Parks and Outdoor Recreation Practicum
PMC 475: Natural History for Park Professionals
PMC 489: Outdoor Recreation Program and Event Planning
PMC 580: Park Operations and Maintenance Management
PMC 690: Parks and Recreation Administration

Instructor of Record/Graduate Teaching Assistant 2018-2020

Courses Taught

PMC 120: Outdoor Recreation Certification – Instructor of Record

PMC 210: Intro to Outdoor Recreation – Instructor of Record

PMC 489: Recreation Program and Event Planning – GTA

PMC 710: Natural Resource Based Tourism – GTA

Prescott College

2015-2016

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Prescott, AZ

Courses Taught

Ecological Economics

Adaptive Entrepreneurship

Appalachian Mountain Club

2010-2013

Environmental Educator & Wilderness Guide

Gorham, NH

Appalachian Mountain Club

2013

Environmental Education Curriculum Development

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Kansas State University

2017-2020

Doctoral Research Assistant

Manhattan, KS

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, ND; Research Project Coordinator

Project Title: *Visitor Use and Associated Thresholds at Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*

· Coordinated long-term, multi-faceted research project involving spatial-temporal, experiential, and managerial elements.

Grand Canyon National Park, AZ; Research Project Coordinator

Project Title: *Visitor use management planning in the rim-to-rim corridor at Grand Canyon National Park.*

· Coordinated long-term multi-faceted research project involving spatial-temporal, managerial, and experiential elements.

Shenandoah National Park, VA; Research Project Coordinator

Project Title: *Evaluating Visitor and Manager Preferences for the Shenandoah National Park Visitor Mobile App*

· Coordinated on-site survey data collection.

Cumberland Island National Seashore, GA; Research Assistant

Project Title: *Conduct Visitor Use Study at Cumberland Island National Seashore to Support Visitor Experience and Resource Protection Plan.*

- Conducted statistical and GIS data analysis for visitor use management research.

Joshua Tree National Park, CA; Research Assistant

Project Title: *Research to Evaluate Visitor Characteristics Across and Within Seasons at Joshua Tree National Park.*

- Conducted on-site data collection for visitor use research at Joshua Tree National Park

Little Jerusalem State Park, KS; Research Project Developer & Coordinator

Project Title: *Establishing management indicators and thresholds for visitor use.*

- Assisted in development of indicators and thresholds for newly developed state park.

Brown v Board of Education National Historic Site, KS; Research Assistant

Project Title: *Research to support management decisions at Brown v Board National Historic Site.*

- Performed survey data collection and assisted with writing of technical report.

Wells National Research Reserve

2017

Research Intern

Wells, ME

- Conducted data collection and analysis related to research on shell rot impacts on fecundity of the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*).
- Assisted in ongoing larval fish population research in the Webhannet River and Little River estuaries.

TEACHING RELATED EXPERIENCE

Falmouth Elementary School

2014-2016

Educational Technician III

Falmouth, ME

Summit Achievement

2014

Wilderness Therapy Guide

Stow, ME

OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

Appalachian Mountain Club

2013

Assistant Programs Coordinator

Gorham, NH

AmeriCorps

2009

Conservation and Restoration Field Crew

Portland, OR

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Kansas State University

· Honorable Mention for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching 2022

Southeast Environment and Recreation Research (SERR) Conference

· First Place - Graduate Student Research 2021

Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

· Graduate Student Research Award 2020

North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture

· Graduate Student Teaching Award 2020

Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals

· National Outdoor Recreation Conference Student Scholarship Recipient 2019

Kansas State University

· Graduate Student Council Travel Scholarship Recipient 2019

Kansas State University

· Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching Award 2018

Southeastern Recreation Research (SERR) Conference

· Graduate Student Award Scholarship Recipient 2018

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Kansas State University

Workshop on Inclusivity & Diversity Awareness 2023

University of Nebraska

Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources 2022

Kansas State University

Faculty Exchange for Teaching Excellence (FETE) 2020

Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusivity Training (JEDI) 2019 and 2020

The Jane Goodall Institute

Growing Compassionate Leaders 2016

Cornell University

The Achievements of Environmental Education 2015

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Doebelin, D., **Brunson, M.**, Sharp, R.L., & Brownlee, M.T.J. (2022) Utilizing social science data from river recreationists to inform river management. *Journal of Interpretation Research*.

Peterson, B.A., Sharp, R.L., Fefer, J.P. & **Brunson, M.** (2021) The Utility of GIS for Identifying Areas of Recreation Conflict for Targeted Interpretive Messaging. *Journal of Interpretation Research*.

Peterson, B.A., Fefer, J.P., Sharp, R.L., & **Brunson, M.** (2021). To connect or not to connect: Visitor perceptions of WiFi and cellular network service at a national park. *Social Sciences & Humanities*.

Brunson, M., Wilkes, J., Sharp, R.L., & Brownlee, M. (in progress) Evaluating Alternative Variables on Visitor Perceptions of Crowding through the use of Photographic Visual Methods.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Sharp, R.L., **Brunson, M.**, & Jackson, S. (In review). *The Facilitation of Research to Practice for Park and Protected Area Managers*. In Visitor Use Management in Parks and Protected Areas.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Sharp, R.L., **Brunson, M.**, Reigner, N., & Cribbs, T.W. (2019). Visitor use management planning in the rim to rim corridor at Grand Canyon National Park. Report delivered to management staff at Grand Canyon National Park, Department of Interior, National Park Service.

Brownlee, M.T.J., Sharp, R.L., Blacketer, M., **Brunson, M.**, Nettles, J., & Perry, E. (2019). Visitor use and associated thresholds at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Report delivered to management staff at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Department of Interior, National Park Service. In fulfillment of agreement P17AC00126.

Sharp, R.L., Mechels, B. & **Brunson, M.** (2018). Understanding visitors to Brown V Board of Education National Historic Site: Research to support management decisions at Brown V Board of Education National Historic Site. Report delivered to management staff at Brown v Board of Education National Historic Site, Department of Interior, National Park Service. In fulfillment of agreement P16AC00504. Topeka, KS.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL PAPERS

Jacobs, L.A., Blacketer, M.P., Peterson, B.A., Levithan, E., Russell, Z.A., and **Brunson, M.** (2020). Responding to COVID-19 and future times of uncertainty: Challenges and opportunities associated with visitor use, management, and research in parks and protected areas. *Parks Stewardship Forum*.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Peterson, B.A., Sharp, R.L., Fefer, J.P. **Brunson, M.** (2022) The utility of GIS for identifying areas of recreation conflict for targeted interpretive messaging. *16th Biennial Conference of Science and Management for the Colorado Plateau and Southwest Region*. September 12-15.

Brunson, M. (2022) Sketching your Surroundings: Nature Journals as Learning Tools. *Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources*. March 23-24.

Brunson, M. (2022) Consulting the Oracle: Understanding Assumptions in Visitor-Use Management Research Using the Delphi Method. *Southeast Environment and Recreation Research (SERR) Conference*. March 20-22.

Brunson, M & Sharp, R.L. (2021) You know what happens when you assume? Addressing assumptions in visitor use management research. *Southeast Environment and Recreation Research (SERR) Conference*. Virtual. March 22-25.

Brunson, M, Sharp, R., & Brownlee, M.T.J. (2020) (accepted - conference cancelled due to COVID-19). Evaluating Alternative Variables on Visitor Perceptions of Crowding when using Photographic Visual Methods. *National Outdoor Recreation Conference*. Knoxville, TN. April 27-30.

Brunson, M. & Sharp, R. (2019) Not Your Father's Canyon? Historical, Current, and Future Perspectives of Visitor Use at Grand Canyon National Park. *Biennial Conference of Science and Management on the Colorado Plateau & Southwest Region*. Flagstaff, AZ. September 9-12.

Brunson, M. (2019) Managing for the Long Run: Managing Trail Runners in Grand Canyon National Park. *National Outdoor Recreation Conference*. Rapid City, ND. May 6-9.

Sharp, R., Cribbs, T., **Brunson, M.**, Jackson, S., Sikorsky, K. (2019) Don't Forget about your Grasslands and Trails! An examination of visitor-use at Cimarron National Grassland and the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. *National Outdoor Recreation Conference*. Rapid City, ND. May 6-9.

Brunson, M. (2018) Engaging Local Communities in their Natural World: Lessons from the East. *Kansas Green Schools & Environmental Education Conference*. Lawrence, KS. November 2-3.

Brunson, M., Cribbs, T., Dagan, D., Kelly, A., Noren, K. (2018) From No-One to Everyone: An Assessment of Little Jerusalem Natural Area, KS and Recommendations for Management. *International Symposium on Society and Resource Management*. Snowbird, UT. June 17-21.

Sharp, R., Mailey, E., **Brunson, M.** (2018) I was walking in Tallgrass: A National Preserve as a means to engage in physical activity in a rural setting. *International Symposium on Society and Resource Management*. Snowbird, UT. June 17-21.

Brunson, M. & Steinberg, M. (2018) Angler motivations, preferences, and attitudes towards wild brook trout management. *Southeast Recreation Research (SERR) Conference*. Athens, GA. March 35-27.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Brunson, M., Sharp, R. (2019) You Didn't Hike It Unless you Tracked It. Using GPS Methods to Monitor Visitor Use in the Cross-Canyon Corridor. *Grand Canyon National Park*. May 22.

COMMITTEES, ASSOCIATIONS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Kanas State University

· Committee Member; Student Recruitment and Retention 2020-

Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals

· Board Member; Graduate Student Delegate 2019-2021

Scholar: A Journal of Leisure Studies and Recreation

· Peer Reviewer 2018-

George Wright Society

· Faculty Advisor: Tallgrass Chapter; Kansas State University 2020-

Trout Unlimited

· Board Member/Membership Chair: Sebago, ME Chapter 2016-2017

GRANTS

Primary Recipient: Michael Brunson

Amount: \$2,000

Funding Agency: Course Hero

Proposal: Use of digital platforms to enhance field-based learning objectives in an undergraduate natural history course.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP)
- Geographic Information Sciences (GIS) Certificate; Kansas State University
- Leave-No-Trace Master Educator; Northern Arizona University
- Outdoor Leadership Certification; Northern Arizona University