

Max Birdsong

378 Oak Ridge Drive
Auburn, AL 36832, United States
(334) 750-9045
mhb0009@auburn.edu



I am a graduate research assistant with experience with social, economic, and spatial patterns and mechanisms influencing recreational behavior. I have experience managing and analyzing large datasets in R, Excel, SPSS, and ArcGIS.

EDUCATION

Auburn University

Master of Science, Natural Resource Management, May 2019
GPA: 3.80; GRE Score: 320 (161 Verbal/159 Quantitative)

Auburn University

Bachelor of Science, Natural Resource Management, May 2017
Sustainability Minor

CURRENT RESEARCH

My graduate research integrates social-psychological, recreational economics, and spatially explicit approaches to understand patterns and processes of recreational use to improve management of public hunting lands in Alabama. Public hunting land in Alabama consists of 36 sites, called Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). We are investigating the individual-level drivers of participation decisions, site-specific characteristics that draw participation, the cost of participation, the spatial relationship between individuals and WMAs (including substitutes), and the frequency and distribution of individuals' hunting trips.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Auburn University

June '17-Present

Human Dimensions Graduate Research Assistant

- Conduct extensive literature reviews of human dimensions research
- Co-design 20-page questionnaire using Microsoft Word and Qualtrics Survey Software
- Disseminate the questionnaire to a sample of 4,000 by mail and collect responses
- Perform a wide array of statistical analyses in R, SPSS, and ArcGIS
- Prepare findings for publication and present at national conferences
- Supervise undergraduate students working on the research project
- Consult on analysis of geotagged social media posts
- Built road network to link survey location to hunting sites
- Develop a predictive model based on user preferences and site characteristics

PUBLICATIONS (IN PROGRESS)

Exploring differences in recruitment and retention of non-traditional hunting populations
Intended Journal: *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*
In Progress: Deadline to submit February 28

Investigating the spatial dynamics of hunting on public land in Alabama
Intended Journal: *Applied Geography*
In Progress: Deadline to submit April 15

Collaborating on Spatial Dynamics of Mountain Biking in Alabama
Building predictive model based off user preferences and site characteristics

PRESENTATIONS

Oral

Exploring the spatial context of hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation in Alabama. 24th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management. 2018. Snowbird, UT, USA.

How R3 Changes Across Different Social Contexts. 72nd Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference. 2018. Mobile, AL, USA.

Poster

Graduate Student Poster Presentation Award Winner:

Impacts of Changing Social Structure on Hunter Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3). 40th Annual Southeastern Recreation Research Conference. 2018. Athens, GA, USA.

SKILLS

- Statistical analyses in R and SPSS
- Spatial analyses in R and ArcGIS
- Survey design, data collection, data editing, data imputation
- Managing, organizing, restructuring and analyzing large datasets
- Use of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Presenting Research in an academic setting

COURSEWORK

Statistics

- Analysis for Wildlife Sciences
- Advanced Analysis for Wildlife Sciences
- Spatial Statistics for Natural Resources

Geographic Information Systems

- GIS Database Design and Analysis
- Quantitative Methods and Spatial Analysis
- Advanced Geographic Information Systems
- GIS Applications in Natural Resources

Social & Economics

- Ecological Economics
- Survey Development & Implementation
- Methods of Social Research

Recreation

- Nature Based Recreation
- Ecosystem Services
- Environmental Interpretation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Auburn Outdoors

Trip Manager

Auburn, AL
Feb '13–Dec '16

- Developed, marketed, and facilitated backcountry skills workshops
- Assisted trip leaders with planning and preparation of 22 trips
- Led 10 multi-day trips: backpacking, mountain biking, fly-fishing, rock-climbing, etc.

University of Alabama Birmingham

Adventure Recreation Intern

Birmingham, AL
Jan '17–May '17

- Created semester trip program, complete with itineraries and reservations
- Managed staff payroll and work schedule

National Outdoor Leadership School

Rations Manager

Driggs, ID
May '15–Sept '15

- Managed \$22,000 rations budget for summer courses
- Developed backcountry rations for courses spending up to four weeks in the field

REFERENCES

Dr. Wayde Morse. Associate Professor, Natural Resource Sociology
Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. Auburn, AL, United States.
wcm0005@auburn.edu | (334) 844-8086