

**Quinn Robinson**  
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### *Vita*

I grew up on a ranch along the North Platte River outside of Douglas, Wyoming. My interest in wildlife and biology began there, and watching the degradation of much of the surrounding landscape taught me a clear lesson in the necessity of conservation. I received my B.A. in Environmental Studies in Biology from Vassar College in 2007. The most enjoyable aspects of my undergraduate studies focused on wildlife and conservation issues in the western U.S. I spent a summer conducting field surveys of Ferruginous hawk and Northern Goshawk nests in central Wyoming, and my senior thesis examined the livestock industry's influence over the Yellowstone wolf reintroduction project and discussed the potential ecological ramifications of this influence. After graduation I worked for several years as an animal trainer and environmental educator at the Wildlife Center of Virginia, a wildlife rehabilitation clinic that emphasizes environmental education and conservation medicine. My experience at the Wildlife Center increased my interest in the behavioral ecology and conservation of carnivores, and pursuing this interest, I accepted a graduate position in Dr. Gary Roemer's lab at New Mexico State University. In addition to science, I love backpacking, paddling, skiing, fishing, hunting, music, baseball, good people and good dogs.

### *Current Research*

My Master's research at New Mexico State University explores the ecological role of the mesocarnivore community inhabiting White Sands National Monument in south-central New Mexico. Using remote cameras and a variety of other sampling techniques, we are investigating the factors that affect patterns of carnivore occupancy and density in this remarkable, unique ecosystem. I am particularly interested in the degree to which a given carnivore species' distribution and density in patches within this system is determined by the presence or absence of other carnivore species. The carnivore community at White Sands has received virtually no research attention prior to this study; consequently, my work should enable better informed management and help to insure the continued presence of vulnerable species such as the kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) on the Monument.

