

Gitanjali S. Bodner

Conservation Ecologist

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EDUCATION

PhD, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 2002

University of Arizona Tucson, AZ

Bachelor of Science, Biological Anthropology, 1991

Harvard University Cambridge, MA

EXPERIENCE

Jan 2008 –
present

Conservation Ecologist

The Nature Conservancy, Tucson, AZ

Primary role is to work with public and private land managers to make more effective use of science in answering important management questions, developing social license to implement restoration projects, and tracking results to learn from actions. Responsibilities include leadership on grassland and riparian cost-share projects with the Bureau of Land Management, grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, land management projects with Pima County and the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, adaptive management and climate adaptation.

Sept 2005 –
Jan 2008

Project Ecologist

The Nature Conservancy, Tucson, AZ

Ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management cost-share project at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. Partnered with the Bureau of Land Management to help design more efficient, targeted monitoring program for grassland, riparian, and aquatic systems on the LCNCA. Worked to tie monitoring results back into stakeholder reviews and agency decision-making.

June 2002 –
Sept 2005

Biological research, conservation planning and outreach

Sky Island Alliance, Tucson, AZ

Biological and cultural research, including *Natural Heritage of the Peloncillo Mountain Region*, scientific experts' report summarizing biological knowledge and values of the area. Coordinated collaboration between NGO sponsors, scientists and land managers; oversaw peer review process. Researched and wrote introductory and invertebrate sections with input from 40 invertebrate specialists in the US and Mexico. Assisted in producing cultural resource study of same area. Wrote conservation status reviews with management recommendations for the 1.5 million acre Peloncillo Mountains region, and for the Dragoon Mountains west side.

Editor of *Restoring Connections*, Sky Island Alliance quarterly newsletter. Responsibilities include overall strategic direction; developing themes for each issue; recruiting submissions; highlighting work done by other NGO's and land managers; editing submissions for content and clarity; and layout and production.

Jan 1998 –
Dec 2003

Board of Directors

Sky Island Alliance, Tucson, AZ

Helped formulate strategic plan, review annual budgets, and resolve personnel issues, write and edit grant proposals to foundations and fundraising letters to general membership.

Helped organize two major conferences that brought together hundreds of scientists, landowners, land and wildlife managers, conservation organizations, members of the public.

Guided numerous field trips for members and collaborators, highlighting natural history features, conservation needs, and opportunities for restoration. Helped with volunteer activities including road inventories, road closures, ecological assessments, wildlife tracking transects, and a public lecture series.

Aug 2002 –
Dec 2005

Adjunct Faculty

Pima Community College, Tucson, AZ

Co-taught multiple self-paced and traditional biology courses

Aug 1993 –
Dec 2001

Ph.D. Graduate Student & Teaching Assistant

University of Arizona Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Tucson, AZ

Teaching included University of Arizona teaching assistant and lab instructor for Conservation Biology, Environmental Biology, and Introductory Biology courses. At Columbia University Biosphere 2 Center, co-instructor for summer Ecological Stewardship course, and fall Conservation Biology field instructor.

Research focused on assessing biodiversity of places and animal groups too rich for complete inventories, developing methodologies to make the most of limited information. Included training of both professional and volunteer assistants for structured field inventories of salticid spiders at four main sites in Cosa Rica, plus additional field work throughout Central America, Mexico, and the Southwestern US, and in museum collections. Taxonomic revision and phylogenetic analyses focused on the jumping spider genera *Cobanus* and *Sidusa*, described species new to science, developed keys and field guides to help both professionals and interested novices identify species of these and related genera.

PUBLICATIONS

- Gori, D., K. Simms, M. Donaldson, G.S. Bodner, and H. Schussman. 2010. Adaptive Management of the Grassland-Watershed at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area: the Role of Monitoring, Rancher Engagement, and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Teams. In: *Southwestern Desert Resources*, W. Halvorson, C.Schwalbe, and C. van Riper III, editors. University of Arizona Press, Tucson AZ
- Bodner, G.S., and K. Simms. 2008. State of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. Part 3. Condition and Trend of Riparian Target Species, Vegetation and Channel Geomorphology. Available at www.azconservation.org
- Bodner, G.S., and J. Simms. 2007. State of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area: Gila Topminnow Population Status and Trends 1989-2005. Available at www.azconservation.org
- Simms, K., G. Drennan, B. Cooper, G.S. Bodner, D. Gori, 2006. Report on the Biological Planning Process for Livestock Management at the Bureau of Land Management's LCNCA. Available at www.azconservation.org

- Bodner, G.S., J. Atchley Montoya, R. Hanson, and W. Anderson, Editors. 2006. Natural heritage of the Peloncillo Mountain Region: a synthesis of science. World Wildlife Fund and Sky Island Alliance, Tucson, AZ. Available at skyislandalliance.org/media/Peloncillo%20Report.pdf
- Bodner, G.S. 2006. Invertebrates of the Peloncillo Region: Taxon Richness and Mystery.p. 96-139, in: Natural heritage of the Peloncillo Mountain Region: a synthesis of science. World Wildlife Fund and Sky Island Alliance, Tucson, AZ.
- Restoring Connections: Quarterly newsletter of the Sky Island Alliance. Editor in Chief and contributor, 7/2002-11/2005. Nine issues available at www.skyislandalliance.org/newsletter.htm
- Bodner, G.S. 2002. Biodiversity Assessment and Systematics of Neotropical Jumping Spiders. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Arizona.