

Shelly A. Johnson

State Specialized Agent, Natural Resources | IFAS Extension, University of Florida
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Education

- Ph.D. University of Florida** 2015
Forest Resources & Conservation (major), Wildlife Ecology & Conservation (minor), Tropical Conservation and Development (certificate); Dissertation: Tradeoffs among Wildlife Diversity, Social Value, and Ecosystem Services; co-advised by Damian C. Adams and Holly K. Ober
- M.S. Northern Arizona University** 2008
Forestry, wildlife ecology (emphasis); Thesis: Effects of Ponderosa Pine Forest Restoration on Foraging and Roosting Bat Habitat; advised by Carol L. Chambers
- B.S. University of Idaho** 1998
Wildlife Resources
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Career History

- State Specialized Agent (Extension Agent II), Natural Resources** 2017-present
University of Florida/IFAS Extension Faculty, Gainesville, FL.
Provide statewide Extension in natural resource conservation and management, including developing, delivering, and evaluating science-based programs for adults, youth, and State and county faculty.
- Biological Scientist II, Research & Extension** 2015 - 2017
North Florida Research and Education Center, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Quincy & Gainesville, FL
Conducted on-going wildlife habitat ecology research on terrestrial vertebrates, primarily bats, in Florida.
Workshop coordinator for extension program, Natural Areas Training Academy.
- Graduate Research Fellow** 2010 - 2015
USDA NIFA Pre-doctoral and CSREES NNF, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Project lead in developing, budgeting, facilitating, and implementing research to evaluate the social and spatial tradeoffs between wildlife diversity and ecosystem services of terrestrial vertebrate wildlife habitat (birds, mammals, herps) in the longleaf pine ecosystem of Florida.
- Nongame Biologist** 2009 - 2010
Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Lander, WY
Team leader to plan, conduct, and monitor populations of bat species (summer mist-netting and winter hibernacula) across the state of Wyoming.
- Research Officer** 2008 - 2009
Society for Environmental Exploration/Frontier, Madagascar
Principal Investigator responsible for planning and implementing research and education on the Madagascar Forest Project to conduct biodiversity surveys of wildlife (vertebrate and invertebrate).
- Graduate Research Assistant** 2006 - 2008
Wildlife Ecology lab, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ
Project lead in developing and implementing a study evaluate conservation needs for bat habitat (roosting and foraging) in managed ponderosa pine forest in northern Arizona.

- Biological Science Technician (avian)** 2005 & 2006
USGS, Sonoran Desert Research Station, Tucson, AZ
Surveying and monitoring migrating Wilson's warbler in arid SW Arizona and California; mistnetting, banding, ID, transmitter attachment, and telemetry. Seasonal: spring
- Raptor Migration Bander** 2004 & 2005
HawkWatch International, Manzano Mountains, NM
Surveyed migratory hawks, falcons, owls and eagles in New Mexico, used bow and mist nets with live lures to trap and band; assess health, age, and morphometric information. Seasonal: fall
- Wildlife Technician** Summer 2005
School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ
Conducted bat mist-net surveys throughout northern Arizona, identifying 18 species, attachment of radio transmitters, and tracking to diurnal roosts or to foraging locations.
- Research Specialist (avian)** Summer 2004
University of Minnesota, El Dorado National Forest, CA
Monitored California spotted owl for ongoing population ecology study and small mammal trapping project.
- Harpy Eagle Reintroduction Assistant** Fall 2003
The Peregrine Fund, Las Cuevas Research Station, Belize
Monitored health and provided food for fledgling harpy eagles during reintroduction into western Belize forests; using telemetry, GPS, and topographic maps to monitor eagle behaviors.
- Macaw Project Research Assistant** Spring 2003
Duke University, Tambopata Research Center, Peru
Assisted on a study of macaw and parrot populations in lowland Peru by climbing 60-100 feet to nest cavities, monitoring behaviors at clay-lick, and collecting chick and population information.
- Veterinary Technician** 2001 - 2002
Mobile Veterinary Services, Austin, TX
Veterinary technician for mobile veterinary service, assisted during avian, equine, canine, and feline exams/surgeries; monitored on-site aviary.
- Wildlife Rehabilitator** 1998 - 2001
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc., Boerne, TX
Rescue, rehabilitation, and release of orphaned/injured wildlife and long-term care of non-releasable native and exotic sanctuary animals, including operation of wildlife rescue hotline responding to public concerns.

Teaching

- FNR4623 Integrated Natural Resource Management (Guest Instructor)** Spring 2017, 2018, 2019
School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville FL
Provided two 1-hour lectures on "Management Techniques for Wildlife" for 50 undergraduates/year.
- WIS 4934 Coastal Conservation Biology (Teaching Assistant)** Summer 2012
Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Seahorse Key and Cedar Key, FL
Assisted 10-day field course with 12 undergraduate students: provided 4 lectures developed written project manual, provided guidance on habitat conservation plans.
- Tropical Habitat Conservation (Lead Instructor)** Fall 2008
BTEC Advanced Diploma course, Society for Environmental Exploration/Frontier, Madagascar
Led 10-week field course, 25 undergraduate students, mentored 6 student projects, 12 classroom lectures on tropical habitat conservation issues, 8 field lessons on monitoring techniques.

Mentorship

IFAS Extension Intern Program, University of Florida, undergraduate (2)	2019 & 2021
Federal Work Study Program, University of Florida, undergraduates (4)	2017-2021
Extension Program Assistants, graduate students (3)	2018-2020
University Minority Mentoring Program, University of Florida, undergraduates (3)	2013-2015

Extension and Outreach *(select examples)*

General Audience

Nature Knowledge (speaker series, monthly, average live attendance 150-250 adults)	2020-present
Talk Nature With Me (coordinate outreach between naturalists and public, 3 counties/yr)	2019-present
EmpowerU: engaging with decision-makers in natural resources (2 workshops, 60 adults/yr)	2019-present
Florida Master Naturalist Program (mentor & coordinate >160 instructors to teach 1,000 adult/yr)	2017-2020
Lubee Bat Conservancy, annual Bat Festival information booth (5,000 adult & youth/yr)	2015-2019

Professional Development

Coordinated IFAS Extension In-Service Training (presentations by UF/IFAS Specialists for UF/IFAS Agents)	
“Promoting Native Wildlife Habitats in Florida”	2019
“Sustaining Natural Resources in Florida”	2016
Workshop coordinator for 7 NATA workshops - average 25 adults/course	2016-2017

Youth-specific

Florida Youth Naturalist Program (curriculum development and soon launching statewide)	2019-present
Ag Adventure Days, UF/IFAS Extension (~500 youth/year), University of Florida, Quincy, FL	2015 & 2016
Science Mentoring Program for under-represented students, Lincoln Middle School, Alachua Co.	2012 & 2013

Research Statement

My research looks at tradeoffs among wildlife diversity, social values, and ecosystem services of wildlife in Florida forests, and has provided me information on the implications for environmental communication with the public. Without understanding how society appreciates wildlife habitat, policymakers, conservation groups, and landowners are unable to judge the true value of investments in restoration and conservation programs. I found systematic preferences, with Floridians favoring conservation for wildlife habitat based on the ecosystem services they provide. Further, I determined that scientific information about wildlife-related ecosystem services significantly elevates public preference for habitat conservation, in particular for non-charismatic species that were previously unknown or disliked. These findings make a meaningful contribution to the discipline, as communicating the potential benefits associated with wildlife habitat conservation to the public can better align public support with conservation and habitat management goals. Currently, my evolving job description allows for development of new collaborations with UF faculty to assist with practical and applied research projects. I anticipate initiating a statewide effort to connect UF faculty researchers and external partners with citizen science volunteers, which could provide substantial support to research efforts of faculty.

Professional Service & Leadership

National/International

Board of Directors, Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP)	
President	2021-present
Vice President & National Conference Chair	2020
Conference Co-Chair/Future Conference Committee Chair	2019
Secretary	2018

State/Regional

Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (FANREP)	
NE District Director	2020-present
Awards Committee	2018-2020
Florida Bat Working Group, Board of Directors, Secretary	2018-present
Florida Environmental Literacy Working Group (FELWG), Member	2018

University of Florida (College/Department)

UF/IFAS Extension Roadmap Initiative III (Natural Resources) Leadership Team	
Initiative III Co-Chair	2021-present
Priority Work Group (Env. Literacy & Sustainability)	2018
UF/IFAS Volunteer Policy Committee member	2019
Search and Screening Committee, IFAS District V, University of Florida	2017
President, Women in Science and Engineering, University of Florida	2012-2013
President, Forestry Graduate Student Organization, University of Florida	2010-2012

Local

Science Fair Judge: Alachua County School District Science Fair (5 th –12 th grades)	2011-2018
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Awards & Recognition

National/International

EmpowerU: Empowering Citizens to Engage Decision Makers; Achievement Award - Innovative Program; Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2021
Marine Habitat Restoration Course, Gold Award; Outstanding Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum; Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2021
Marine Habitat Restoration Video Series, Silver Award; Outstanding Video; Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2021
Florida Youth Naturalist Program Instructor Field Guide, Gold Award; Outstanding Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum; Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2020
Outstanding Program Evaluation; Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach & Service Programs.	2019
Outstanding Team, Master Naturalist Program; Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach & Service Programs.	2019

State/Regional

Marine Habitat Restoration Course manual, 1 st Place Outstanding Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum; Florida Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2021
Marine Habitat Restoration Course Video Series, 1 st Place Outstanding Video; Florida Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2021
Marine Habitat Restoration Course, 3rd Place Long Publication; Florida Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2021
Florida Youth Naturalist Program Instructor Field Guide, 1st Place Outstanding Long Publication. Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2020
Florida Youth Naturalist Program Instructor Field Guide, 3rd Place Outstanding Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum. Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2020
FMNP Impact Report, 1 st place Promotional Materials; Florida Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2019
Coastal Shoreline Restoration Course manual, 1 st Place Long Publication; Florida Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2018
Coastal Shoreline Restoration Course multi-media slides, 1 st Place Computerized Graphics; Florida Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.	2018
Coastal Shoreline Restoration Course, 1 st Place Comprehensive Program Mixed Materials; Florida Association	2018

of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.

University of Florida

Outstanding Graduate Student Leader, University of Florida, Graduate Student Council	2013
Smith Student Leadership Award, School of Forest Resources, University of Florida	2012
Outstanding PhD Student Award, School of Forest Resources, University of Florida	2010-2011

Grants & Scholarships

\$12,500	Florida Sea Grant, Principle Investigator: “Florida Youth Naturalist Program”	2018-2019
\$3,200	University of Minnesota (USDA RREA Focus Funds), Principle Investigator: “EmpowerU: Empowering Citizens to engage natural resource managers and decision-makers”	2018-2019
\$10,000	Science Festival Alliance (NSF funds), Co-Principle Investigator: “Talk Nature With Me”	2018-2020
\$39,500	USDA NIFA Pre-doctoral Graduate Fellowship, Principle Investigator: “Tradeoffs among wildlife diversity, social values, and ecosystem services”	2013-2015
\$1,000	Cornett Scholarship, College of Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida	2014
\$73,500	USDA CSREES National Needs Fellowship, Conserved Forest Ecosystems: Outreach and Research, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida	2010-2013
\$1,000	Lowe Scholarship, College of Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida	2013
\$1,000	University Women’s Club Graduate Scholarship, University of Florida	2013
\$800	Graduate Student Council & CALS Student Travel Awards, University of Florida	2011-2013
\$500	Vam C. York Scholarship, Women’s Agricultural Club, University of Florida	2012
\$24,000	USDA CSREES McIntire-Stennis Research Assistantship, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University	2006-2007

Refereed Publications

- Gupta A, Meyer N, Prysby M, **Johnson SA**, Overholt GE. *Submitted*. Designing Social-Ecological Programs to Support Extension Participants in Civic Engagement. *Journal of Extension*.
- Ober HK, Jones GM, Gottlieb IGW, **Johnson SA**, Smith L, Brosi B, Fletcher Jr. JW. 2020. Bat community response to intensification of biomass production for bioenergy across the southeastern United States. *Ecological Applications* 30(7): e02155. (<https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2155>)
- Main MB, Ober HK, **Johnson SA**. 2020. Resilient structure of nature-based extension programs facilitates transition to online delivery and maintains participant satisfaction. *Ecology and Evolution* 10(22):12508-12514. (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ece3.6860>)
- Johnson SA**, Ober HK, Adams DC. 2017. Are Keystone Species Effective Umbrellas for Habitat Conservation? A Spatially Explicit Approach. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 37:47-55. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1617138117301401>)
- Johnson SA**, Chambers CL. 2017. Effects of ponderosa pine forest restoration on habitat for bats. *Western North American Naturalist*: 77(3) n7. (<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/wnan/vol77/iss3/7/>)
- Cho A, **Johnson SA**, Schuman C, Adler J, Gonzalez O, Graves SJ, Huebner JR, Marchant DB, Rifai SW, Skinner I, Bruna EM. 2014. Women are underrepresented on editorial boards in environmental biology. *PeerJ* 2:e542. (<https://peerj.com/articles/542/>)
- Palumbo MJ, **Johnson SA**, Mundim FM, Wolf AC, Arunachalam S, Gonzalez O, Lau A, Ulrich J, Washuta A, Bruna EM. 2012. Harnessing smartphones for ecological education, research, and outreach. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 93: 390-393. (http://www.wec.ufl.edu/faculty/brunae/Publications/Palumbo_etal_2012_BullEcoSoc.pdf)
- Johnson SA**, Perryman RJY, Steer MD, Belle EMS. 2010. Observations of a *Pteropus rufus* colony in a Dry Deciduous Forest Fragment of Northern Madagascar. *African Bat Conservation News* 23: 3-6. (http://www.africanbats.org/Documents/ABCN/ABCN_23.pdf)

Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) (peer-reviewed)

EDIS is a publication management system providing a comprehensive, single-source repository of all current UF/IFAS numbered peer-reviewed extension publications that are available for free distribution online

Bostick KW, **Johnson SA**, Main MB. 2018. Florida Geologic History. EDIS Publication #WEC189
(<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw208>)

Johnson SA, Kroeger T, Horn J, Adams A, Adams DC. 2017. The Value of Private Non-Industrial Forestland for Wildlife Species Conservation. EDIS Publication #FOR336. (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FR/FR40500.pdf>)

Johnson SA, Ellis MT, Main MB. 2017. Florida State Symbols. EDIS Publication #CIR1467.
(<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/UW/UW20900.pdf>)

Non-refereed Publications

Johnson SA. 2021. Turn a Beast into a Beauty. *Legacy Magazine*, National Association for Interpretation 32(1):21-23. *Invited article*

Johnson SA. 2020. FMNP Instructor Training Manual. Florida Master Naturalist Program, University of Florida/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL, 34pp.

Johnson SA, Hensley ST, Ellis MT. 2019. Florida Youth Naturalist Field Guide. University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Gainesville, FL, 110 pp.

Barry, S.C., L.K Reynolds, J. Patterson, S. Krueger, L.S. Jackson, and **S. Johnson**. 2019. Marine Habitat Restoration, participant manual and curriculum. Florida Master Naturalist Program, University of Florida/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL, 139 pp.

Creswell RL, **Johnson SA**, Main MB. 2017. Coastal Shoreline Restoration, participant manual and curriculum. Florida Master Naturalist Program, University of Florida/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL, 130 pp.

Johnson SA. 2015. Tradeoffs among wildlife diversity, social values, and ecosystem services. PhD dissertation, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Johnson SA. 2014. Modeling wildlife occurrence to evaluate ecosystem service tradeoffs. CFEOR Updates newsletter 01.27.14, Conserved Forest Ecosystems: Outreach and Research, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Kroeger T, **Johnson SA**, Horn J. 2012. Species conservation value of non-industrial private forestlands. Pages 93-111 in Escobedo F, Timilsina N, editors. Final Report: Stewardship Ecosystem Services Survey Project, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Cudworth N, **Johnson SA**, Grenier M. 2011. Inventories of forest bats in northeastern Wyoming. Pages 119 - 145 in Threatened, endangered and nongame bird and mammal investigations (M.B. Grenier, Editor). Wyoming Game and Fish Department Nongame Program, Lander, Wyoming, USA.

Johnson SA, Grenier M. Forest bat inventories annual completion report 2009, Nongame Program, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Lander, Wyoming, USA

Johnson SA. 2009. Diversity and distribution of Chiroptera species in fragmented secondary dry deciduous forest of northern Madagascar, Technical Report. The Society for Environmental Exploration / Frontier, London, UK

Johnson SA. 2008. Frontier Madagascar Forest Programme, Science Report 084. The Society for Environmental Exploration / Frontier, London, UK

Johnson SA. 2008. Effects of ponderosa pine forest restoration on bat habitat in northern Arizona. M.S. Thesis, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona, USA

Professional Presentations (select examples)

Johnson SA, Ober HK, Adams DC. 2020. **Turn a Beast into a Beauty**. National Association for Interpretation national conference, virtual conference.

Johnson SA. 2019. **Motivating Citizen Scientists through Environmental Education**. Citizen Science Association (CitSci) National Conference, Raleigh, NC.

- Johnson SA. 2019. **Promoting Community Engagement and Outreach in Natural Resources**. Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP) National Conference, Columbia, MD.
- Johnson SA, 2018. **Motivating Diversity in Environmental Education Programs**. North American Congress on Conservation Biology (NACCB), Toronto, Canada.
- Johnson SA. 2018. **Expand your Outreach with the Florida Master Naturalist Program**. Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Conference (SEEA), hosted by League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF), St. Petersburg, FL.
- Johnson SA, Ober HK, Adams DC. 2017. **More than meets the eye: ecosystem services affect public preference for wildlife conservation**. International Convention on Conservation Biology (ICCB), Cartagena, Colombia.
- Johnson SA, Adams DC, Ober HK. 2017. **Monetizing wildlife habitat: a necessary evil?** International Convention on Conservation Biology (ICCB), Cartagena, Colombia.
- Johnson SA, Main MN. 2017. **A successful model for statewide conservation education programs**. Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP) National Conference, Portland, OR.
- Johnson SA, Ober HK, Adams DC. 2016. **The gopher tortoise: keystone, umbrella, and flagship, oh my!** The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FLTWS), Gainesville, FL.
- Johnson SA. 2015. **Tradeoffs among Wildlife Diversity, Social Values, and Ecosystem Services**. National Institute of Food and Agriculture, AFRI NIFA Fellowship Program, Annual Project Directors Meeting, Washington DC.
- Johnson SA, Ober HK, Adams DC. 2014. **Revealing Perceived Benefits of Wildlife Diversity: What Floridians think**. North American Congress for Conservation Biology, Missoula, MT.
- Johnson SA, Ober HK, Adams DC. 2014. **What are the Benefits of Wildlife in Florida? A Survey of Professionals**. Florida Wildlife Society (FLTWS)/Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Conference (FLEPPC), Safety Harbor, FL.
- Johnson SA, Ober HK, Adams DC. 2013. **Modeling Wildlife Occurrence to Evaluate Ecosystem Service Tradeoffs**. International Convention on Conservation Biology (ICCB), Baltimore, MD.
- Johnson SA, Ober HK, Adams DC. 2012. **Spatial Patterns of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Florida**. ACES: A Community on Ecosystem Services, International Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Professional Memberships

International	Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)	2008-present
National	Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP)	2017-present
National	Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP)	2017-present
National	Citizen Science Association (CSA)	2019-present
National	National Association for Interpretation	2020-present
State	League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF)	2017-present
State	Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (FANREP)	2017-present
State	Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FLTWS)	2011-present

Training/Certificates

- NAI Certified Interpretive Guide (2021)
- Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and AHA CPR AED Certification (2017, 2019)
- S-130/190 Basic Wildland Fire Fighter (2016)
- Leave No Trace® Awareness Course (2016)
- Project Learning Tree: Educators Workshop (2012)
- Wilderness First Aid and AHA CPR AED Certification (2010, 2012)
- PADI open-water diver (2004), Advanced (2019)