

# Levi Simmons

Fort Collins, CO

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My skills are incredibly diverse. While I have listed my most recent work experience, I have learned much from years of performing well in conditions ranging from shoveling ash at coal-fired power plants, programming precision CNC machine tools, to performing delicate chemistry assays. Yet, the most important thing that I have learned, is a good work ethic. As such, I can offer my dedication to performing at my highest standards, which ensures reliability, punctuality, and a demonstrated dedication to learning, should you choose to hire me as your employee.

Authorized to work in the US for any employer

## Work Experience

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### **Lead Fisheries Technician**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Grand Junction, CO

March 2018 to November 2018

This was a seasonal position aiding the regional state aquatic biologist with fisheries related projects throughout the duration of the season. Additionally, I was responsible for training other technicians and leading crews when needed.

Specific duties include: captaining an electrofishing raft or jet boat while performing non-native removal projects and native fish surveys (multiple locations on the Colorado and White Rivers, CO). Leading tech responsible for crew safety and productivity while in the field, notably throughout reclamation project aimed at restoring native cutthroat trout populations (East Fork Parachute Creek, CO). Perform standard surveys and assisting with large-scale research and management efforts throughout the state (Yampa and Roaring Fork Rivers, CO; Stagecoach Reservoir, CO).

### **Aquatic Research Technician**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Montrose, CO

March 2017 to November 2017

This was a seasonal position aiding Colorado researchers in 1) performing an exclusionary weir experiment focused on genetic integrity of native sucker species, and 2) determining the prevalence of Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD) in wild trout populations throughout the state of Colorado.

Specific duties include: 24-hour maintenance of weir while processing fishes entering and leaving an intermittent stream (collecting length, weight, PIT tag data and installation of new tags) Other duties include traveling to meet regional biologists to collect renal tissue samples of wild trout for BKD testing in accordance with strict protocol. Additionally, I would collect fish samples when biologists were unavailable, assisted other biologists with projects such as large-river electrofishing and occasionally captain an electrofishing raft.

### **Shipping Clerk**

Capitol Books and Wellness - Grand Junction, CO

October 2016 to February 2017

Capitol Books and Wellness is a private Amazon distributor that operates independent listings and associated shipping/receiving departments. As a shipping/receiving clerk, I would process bulk shipments into smaller portions or combinations of items in preparation for future sales. I personally set new production records for the entire department for the last two months of my time at this position.

### **Soil Erosion/Citizen Science Technician - Intern**

Wild Utah Project - Salt Lake City, UT  
May 2016 to August 2016

Wild Utah Project is a nonprofit organization that focuses on providing scientific services and working with agencies to provide recommendations regarding various conservation issues. Primary duties of this job were to assist/lead teams of volunteer citizen scientists, collect forage biomass samples, collect data on sage-grouse habitat using the BLM's Habitat Assessment Framework, and survey forest roads for sedimentation risks to headwaters. The headwaters sedimentation project was my primary task, in which I traveled approximately 2,000 miles while surveying roads in Utah's National Forests without supervision for up to a week at a time in the field. The skills necessary to excel at this job include: excellent driving skills on rough roads, navigation, GIS tools and software (ArcMap), collecting detailed data in the field (e.g., slope, stream profiles, distances, and coordinates), and presenting comprehensive reports to supervisors and partners of the project.

### **Utah State University -Fish Ecology Lab**

Senior Undergraduate Technician  
October 2013 to May 2016

The Fish Ecology Lab is ran by Dr. Phaedra Budy, which processes samples from numerous research projects by Dr. Budy, graduate students, and other faculty. Primary duties involved processing biological samples and supporting active research projects in the field. As the senior undergraduate technician, I was responsible for training technicians and oversight of some projects. Specifically, processing arctic zooplankton and preparation of stable isotope samples were projects in which I had direct oversight. Other field sampling duties include stream habitat surveys using inflatable watercraft, and sampling fish in lakes and streams. Many of the sites are remote and required good skills driving manual 4-wheel drive vehicles, primitive camping for as long as a week, use of water quality instruments, and the use of motorized boats and personal watercraft. Other skills needed include: use of nets and traps, taking discharge measurements, electrofishing, GPS units, working as a team and independently, and hauling trailers and boats.

### **Research Assistant (NSF-REU)**

Toolik Field Station - Toolik, AK  
June 2015 to August 2015

The Arctic Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) is a multifaceted research program focused on performing research projects that may yield insight on the risks of increasing temperatures in the arctic. The NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program is a competitive research stipend to work directly with researchers in assisting with their projects, as well as designing and implementing an independent research project over the course of the field season. The project I assisted with investigates aquatic food web interactions, with a focus on arctic char in numerous lake systems. Additionally, I was responsible for setting up and monitoring a series of incubation experiments involving local aquatic invertebrate species. My personal research project focused on using diet data collected over the summer in an attempt to explain dimorphism of char in systems with multiple apex predators, which was later expanded upon through the use of stable isotope samples.

The results presented as an oral presentation the Utah Chapter of The American Fisheries Society annual conference, as well as poster sessions at USU.

### **Research Assistant / Independent Research (REU)**

Marine Biological Laboratory - North Slope, AK  
June 2015 to August 2015

The Arctic LTER National Science Foundation - Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF-REU) program is a competitive research stipend affording the opportunity to work directly with researchers and collaborating with ongoing project. I was required to design and implement an independent research project over the course of the field season.. Additionally, I was responsible for setting up and monitoring a series of incubation experiments involving local aquatic invertebrate species. My personal research project focused on using fish diet compositions collected over the summer in an attempt to explain dimorphism of char in systems with multiple apex predators, which was later expanded upon via stable isotope analyses. The results were presented as an oral presentation the annual regional chapter of The American Fisheries Society annual conference, as well as at the Utah State University - Student Research Symposium.

### **Summer Research Assistant (limnology tech)**

Research Tech  
June 2014 to August 2014

This position was with the lakes component of the Arctic LTER collecting limnologic data, and was comprised of challenging tasks both in the lab as well as in the field. The field component required extensive hiking in the tundra while carrying very heavy packs, use of motorized and inflatable boats, sampling in inclement weather while being eaten by mosquitos. Sampling methods included use of Hydrolab instruments to log a variety of water quality metrics (e.g. temperature, conductivity, PAR, DO, Chl-a), collecting a profile of water samples using a Van Doren flask, zooplankton tows, secchi depth, and recording other relevant data. The lab component of this job entailed maintaining sterile lab areas and equipment, processing of samples through vacuum filtration, phosphate and nitrogen nutrient analysis, chlorophyll analysis, preservation of samples for an array of other analyses, as well as general lab maintenance and quality control procedures.

### **Biological Science Aid (watershed/soils)**

USDA Forest Service (Manti-LaSal National Forest) - Price, UT  
June 2013 to August 2013

Date: June 2013- August 2013

This position focused on gathering data regarding soil structure and condition to be used to evaluate the risks of erosion associated with grazing by cattle and sheep. We collected a variety of metrics such as soil textures and their respective horizons, ground cover, and collecting transect data used for WEP modeling. Typical duties include traveling to remote sites in rugged mountainous terrain via 4-wheel drive vehicles and UTV's, digging soil pits, collect data on soil characteristics, identifying plant species, use of penetrometers, measuring infiltration capacity, and qualitative assessments. This position required skills in navigation, planning routes, primitive camping, data management, and presenting weekly progress reports to supervisors.

## Education

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### **B.S. in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences**

Utah State University  
2013 to 2016

## Skills

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Excel (3 years), GIS (2 years), Mechanical (4 years), Machine Operator (5 years), Painting (2 years)

## Links

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[http://issuu.com/usuprm/docs/utah\\_state\\_magazine\\_winter\\_2016/26?e=1295814/32474721](http://issuu.com/usuprm/docs/utah_state_magazine_winter_2016/26?e=1295814/32474721)

## Additional Information

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### Institutions Attended

- Utah State University (Fall 2013 - Spring 2016)

GPA: 3.87

Degree awarded: B.S. in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (Magna Cum Laude)

- USU Eastern (Fall 2011 - Spring 2013)

GPA: 3.89

Degree awarded: A.S. (High Honors)

### Research Experience

- Senior undergraduate technician at Dr. Phaedra Budy's Fish Ecology Lab. (Fall 2013 - Spring 2016)
- Limnology research technician for the Arctic LTER at Toolik Field Station. (Summer 2014)
- Independent research project comparing diet compositions of arctic char in an oligotrophic lake and an artificially fertilized lake (Spring 2015)
- NSF REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) with the fisheries component of Arctic LTER at Toolik Field Station. (Summer 2015)
- Independent undergraduate research project focusing on food web interactions of dimorphic inland arctic char utilizing a comprehensive stable isotope analysis. (Summer 2016)

### Scholarships and Awards

- Awarded Residential Dean's Transfer Scholarship from Utah State University (2013), Jessop B. Lowe and Turner scholarships (2014), and William T. Helm, William F. Sigler, and Jeb Stuart scholarships (2015).
- "Sunshine Award" from the SUN Center (volunteer service organization at USU-Eastern). (2013)
- "Instar Fellowship" awarded from the Society for Freshwater Science. (2014)
- Recipient of the Quinney College of Natural Resources "Legacy of Utah State" award. (2015)
- Undergraduate Research Creative Opportunities (URCO) grant awarded from USU Office of Research and Graduate Studies to fund independent research. (2015)

### Other Experience:

Pipefitter (1 year) - Power Source Services Inc.

Security Guard (1 year) - Peak Alarm Inc.

Industrial valve mechanic (2 years) - Intermountain Valve Services

Machinist (5 years) - Price Machine and Repair/Tram Electric

Whitewater Guide (47 river days) - Carbon County Recreation/Eagle Outdoors Institute