



Melanie Brown

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Melanie Brown joined the Conservation Biology Institute in July of 2015. She has a B.S. in Natural Resource Management with a focus on science and research from Oregon State University (OSU), and an A.A.S. in Water Conservation from Lane Community College (LCC). Melanie is originally from Rhode Island and moved to Oregon in 2008. She has a broad interest in conservation issues including how climate change and invasive species affect land management, and how sustainability and urban ecology affect natural resources. Her background includes a diverse mix of conservation, horticulture, and marketing. As an undergraduate she conducted research alongside her mentor Dr. Dominique Bachelet about how Oregon and Idaho Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managers perceive the usefulness of web-based climate tools for sagebrush management. Prior to attending OSU Melanie worked for ten years in various horticulture and vegetation management positions that include assisting in silviculture field studies; a horticulture internship focused on integrated pest management (IPM); manager of marketing and merchandising for an Oregon plant nursery where she integrated native plant species into nursery stock and gave numerous workshops on incorporating wildlife, IPM and xeriscaping into home gardens; and as an entrepreneur who started and managed a landscape design company focused on the incorporation of native and non-invasive species to New England home landscapes. Other experience includes an internship in conservation marketing and development for an Oregon non-profit where she created a neighborhood conservation marketing plan and conducted grant research; an internship in zoology where she cared for a diversity of animal species including threatened and endangered species and worked on animal enrichment and habitat displays; and work with the American Burying Beetle Species Survival Plan where she cared for and tracked American Burying Beetle populations and assisted in their catch and release on Martha's Vineyard. In her free time Melanie enjoys hiking and exploring the Northwest, photography and spending time with her two young children.

EDUCATION

B.S., Natural Resource Management - Cum Laude (Science and Research Focus), Oregon State University, OR, 2015

Thesis: Creating Useful and Usable Climate Tools for Sagebrush Land Management Through Scientist and Manager Collaboration.



A.A.S., Water Conservation - Cum Laude, Lane Community College, OR, 2012

Northwest Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), Outdoor Leadership Certificate, 2012

Rhode Island Beekeepers Association, Beekeeper Training Program, 2001

RECENT AWARDS & HONORS

Forestry Legacy Scholarship, Oregon State University (2014/15)

First Recipient of the George Lea Founders Scholarship, Public Lands Foundation (2014)

Glenn & Josephine Thompson Scholarship, Oregon State University (2013/14)

Waldo-Cummings Outstanding Student Award - Junior Honorable Mention, Oregon State University (2013)

Terra Magazine Article (by Lee Sherman) – Anatomy of a Climate Tool: A scientist and a student achieve mind-meld with sagebrush managers (2015)

Featured student on Oregon State University Forest Ecosystems and Society homepage banner (2015)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2015 - current. **Research Assistant**, Conservation Biology Institute, Corvallis, OR

2014 – 2015. **Research Assistant**, Oregon State University Department of Biological and Ecological Engineering, Corvallis, OR

2012 – 2013. **Field Technician**, Vegetation Management Research Cooperative, Oregon State University Department of Forestry, Corvallis, OR

2011 – 2012. **Technical Writer** - Technical Manuals for Water Treatment Engineer Course, Odesk

2011. **Intern - Conservation Marketing and Development**, Willamette Resources & Educational Network (WREN), West Eugene Wetlands, Eugene, OR

2009 – 2011. **Marketing and Merchandising Manager; Event Director**, Johnson Brothers Greenhouses, Coburg, OR

2008 – 2009. **Aquatic Plant Technician**, Oregon Aquatics, Eugene, OR

2008. **Native Plant Technician**, Balance Restoration Nursery, Veneta, OR



- 2005 – 2007. **Director, Manager and Designer**, WilDesigns Landscaping, RI
- 2004 – 2005. **Greenhouse and Plant Technician; Florist**, Yardworks Inc., Warwick, RI
- 2003 – 2004. **Volunteer - American Burying Beetle Species Survival Plan**, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Roger Williams Park Zoo, RI
- 2003 – 2004. **Intern – Zoology, Horticulture and Conservation Education**, Roger Williams Park Zoo, RI
2002. **Camp Counselor – Outdoor Education**, YMCA Camp Ok-Wa-Nessett, RI

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Principle Investigator for Packaging Usable Climate Change Information for Sagebrush Country (*Bureau of Land Management*)

Information liaison between Oregon and Idaho BLM sagebrush land managers, and CBI climate scientists and web tool developers. Created and implemented surveys and phone interviews to research the usefulness and usability of eight existing web-based climate tools, and how each tool and its components can be enhanced or revised to better aid in sagebrush management. Compiled manager feedback into a webinar, thesis and journal article, and relayed results to CBI web tool developers to help enhance the usefulness of CBI products.

Principle Investigator for Sagebrush Managers and Climate Change Tools (*US Fish and Wildlife, Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative*)

Expanded prior research “Packaging Usable Climate Change Information for Sagebrush Country” to include a larger community within the Great Basin. Designed a new conceptual web-based climate and vegetation impacts tool, called the Landscape Simulator’, based on prior feedback about useful tool components. Created and implemented surveys and phone interviews with Great Basin sagebrush land managers, gathering detailed feedback about the Landscape Simulator and the Climate Console, another interactive tool refined by CBI to include manager needs. Compiled manager feedback into a webinar and journal article, and relayed results to CBI web tool developers to help enhance the usefulness of CBI products.

PUBLICATIONS

Article in prep: **"BLM land managers give specific feedback about the usefulness of eight existing web-based climate tools for sagebrush management"**



Article in prep: "**Great Basin land managers give refined feedback about two web-based climate tools formulated to aid sagebrush management**"

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Bachelet, D., M. Brown, and M. Gough. **Is this what you need? Direct feedback help climate change information exchange.** Abstract # PA33B-2186. AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 13-18 Dec 2015. [Poster]

Bachelet, D., M. Brown, M. Gough, T. Sheehan, and K. Ferschweiler. **So you have data, now what?** Sixth Annual Northwest Climate Conference, Coeur D'Alene, Nov 3-5, 2015. [Oral Presentation]

Brown, M., D. Bachelet and T. Sheehan. **Developing Usable Climate Tools For Sagebrush Land Managers.** Great Basin Consortium Conference: "Climate Programs, Water Limitations, and Geospaces in the Great Basin", Boise, ID, 17-19 Feb 2015. [Poster]

Brown, M. and T. McGrail. **Alternatives to Lawns.** Rhode Island Sustainable Living Festival, RI, Jun 2007. [Public Workshop]

Brown, M. **Organic Gardening.** Toxic Information Project Public Meeting, RI, Apr 2007. [Public Workshop]

WEBINARS

Jan 2015 - **Packaging Usable Climate Change Information for Sagebrush Country.** <http://consbio.org/products/webinars/usable-climate-change-information>

Nov 2015 - **Can collaboration between climate scientists and land managers lead to more useable climate tools?** <http://consbio.org/products/webinars/can-collaboration-between-climate-scientists-and-land-managers-lead-more-useable-climate-tools>