

Sonja Ann Christensen

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Specialization in Disease Ecology; May 2018. Michigan State University. Co-Advisors: Dr. William Porter and Dr. David Williams.

M.Sc., Wildlife and Fisheries Science; May 2010. The Pennsylvania State University. Advisor: Dr. Duane Diefenbach

B.Sc., Major: Biology, Ecology emphasis; Minor: Geography; December 2005. Minnesota State University, Mankato.

EMPLOYMENT

Research Associate and Project Supervisor – Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. December 2017 – present.

Graduate Research Assistant – Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan: August 2013 – December 2017.

Research advisors Dr. William Porter and Dr. David Williams

Graduate Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant – University of Montana, Missoula, MT: August 2011 – August 2013.

Research advisor (November 2012 – August 2013): Dr. Paul Krausman

Research advisor (August 2011 - November 2012): Dr. Mark Hebblewhite

Deer and Moose Project leader-Wildlife Biologist, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Westborough, MA: April 2008 – August 2011

Supervisor: Tom O'Shea

Graduate Research Assistant – Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University Park, Pennsylvania: January 2006 – May 2008.

Research advisor: Dr. Duane Diefenbach

Wildlife Research Biologist Paraprofessional, MN Department of Natural Resources, Farmland Wildlife Research, Madelia, Minnesota: November 2004 – January 2006

Supervisor: Dr. Marrett Grund

COURSES TAUGHT

- Co-Instructor: Michigan State University FW885. Leadership in Natural Resources and Environmental Management. Fall semester 2017. W. Porter and S. Christensen
- Teaching assistant: University of Montana WILD 480: Applied Wildlife Management, Spring 2013, Faculty: Dr. Paul Krausman
- Teaching Assistant: University of Montana WILD 370: Wildlife Habitat Management and Conservation, Spring 2012, Faculty: Dr. Victoria Drietz.

AWARDED RESEARCH GRANTS

- Evaluating the interaction of emerging diseases on white-tailed deer populations. The Hal and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation. W. Porter, D. Williams and **S. Christensen**. *Co-PI. \$260,033.
- Management solutions for chronic wasting disease. Michigan State University, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, AgBioResearch and MSU Extension. W. Porter, D. Williams and **S. Christensen**. \$300,000.
- Assessing drivers of spread and transmission of Chronic Wasting Disease in Michigan deer. Division of Wildlife, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. D. Williams, W. Porter, and **S. Christensen**. \$502,736.
- Management of chronic wasting disease. Division of Wildlife, Michigan Department of Resources. W. Porter, D. Williams, and **S. Christensen**. \$250,000.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND LEADERSHIP

- Guest Editor, The Northeast Naturalist 2016
- Reviewer, Wildlife Society Bulletin 2016
- Reviewer, The Northeast Naturalist 2014
- Assistant Coordinator, National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative Steering Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency – Sept. 2015-Present
- Emerging Leaders Program: Great Lakes Leadership Academy, 9-month program of individual and organizational leadership development. April – Sept. 2016.
- Wildlife Disease Association, MSU Student Chapter, co-founder – 2015-present
- Current Past-President, Michigan Chapter TWS: March 2018 – March 2019
- Undergraduate research mentor for MSU Fish and Wildlife Dept. students: Kali Rush (graduated May 2016), Hunter Stanke (graduated December 2018), Sydney Manning (graduated Fall 2017), and Addison Pletcher (expected graduation May 2020)

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

- North Central Section of TWS Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year award 2016, \$500

- The Hal and Jean Glassen Foundation Fellow Conservation Medicine Fellowship 2015 \$8,000
- Joseph G. Schotthoefer Memorial Student Award, Safari Club International Michigan Involvement Committee, September 2014. \$2,000.
- Graduate Research Enhancement Fellowship, for attendance to the Introduction to Distance Sampling Workshop at St. Andrews University, Scotland. Summer 2014. \$1,000. Michigan State University.

PUBLICATIONS (PAST 4 YEARS)

Christensen, S. A. 2018. Population Impacts and Disease Patterns of Hemorrhagic Disease in White-Tailed Deer: Understanding the Role of an Emergent Disease. Doctoral dissertation, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA.

Carrera, R., W. B. Ballard, P. R. Krausman, J. Devos Jr., M. C. Wallace, S. Cunningham, O. J. Alcumbrac, and **S. A. Christensen**. 2015. Reproduction and nutrition of desert mule deer with and without predation. *The Southwest Naturalist*, 60(4): 285-298.

Krausman, P. R., **Christensen, S. A.**, McDonald J. E., and Leopold B. D. 2014. Dynamics and social issues of overpopulated deer ranges in the United States: a long term assessment. *Journal of California Fish and Game*, 100(3): 434-448.