



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

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September 24, 2026

Ms. Angel Drobnica, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third, Suite 499
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Chair Drobnica,

I am nominating Dr. Andrew Whetten for appointment to the Council's Bering Sea and Aleutian (BSAI) Groundfish Plan Team.

Dr. Whetten has recently joined the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a Biometrician in the Commercial Fisheries Division and brings robust statistical and quantitative expertise to our team. In prior work at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Dr. Whetten led development of population trend models using structured and opportunistic survey data and advanced causal machine-learning approaches for population survey data. As a postdoctoral fellow with the USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Kansas State University, Dr. Whetten served as a technical lead on multiple federal and state-agency research initiatives focused on modeling disease prevalence and population health with population survey data.

Dr. Whetten received his PhD in Mathematics with a specialization in Statistics at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, a M.S. in Statistics at Utah State University, and a B.S. in Applied Mathematics at Weber State University. His recent work has been published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences – Nexus, The American Statistician, and Environmetrics.

Dr. Whetten's background in statistics and quantitative ecology would make him a valuable addition to the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team. I have attached his CV for reference. Thank you for considering Dr. Whetten's appointment at the October Council meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lang".

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

Cc: Rachel Baker, Deputy Commissioner ADF&G
Diana Evans, Executive Director NPFMC

ANDREW B. WHETTEN PHD

ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICIAN

Personal Info

Email:

whettenandrew@gmail.com

Phone:

608-581-2006

Websites:

<https://sites.google.com/view/abwhetten-phd/about>

Google Scholar:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=XzDs1EAAAAAJ&hl=en>

Software:

R. ★★★★★
RShiny ★★★★★
Python ★★★★★
Matlab ★★★★★
ArcGIS ★★★★★
ERDAS ★★★★★

Skills

Multivariate Statistics
★★★★★

Machine Learning
★★★★★

Statistical Visualization
★★★★★

Communication
★★★★★

Leadership
★★★★★

Hobbies:

Trail Running, Mandolin,
Bird photography,
Participatory Science

PROFILE

I am an innovative applied statistician inspired by big data problems in participatory science, remote sensing, animal movement, wildlife management, and agriculture. I draw on my diverse background in mathematics, statistics, machine learning, remote sensing, and quantitative ecology to explore a diverse set of scientific and data-driven biological research questions.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Mathematics (Specialization in Statistics), UW-Milwaukee, Wisconsin — May 2022

Dissertation: Spline Modeling and Localized Mutual Information Monitoring of Pairwise Associations of Animal Movement.

Topic: Local Dissimilarity Measures for tracking correlation of animal movement; Spline Modeling Strategies for Animal Movement and Interaction.

Advisors: Vincent Larson and David Spade

M.S. in Statistics, Utah State University, Logan, Utah — December 2018

Thesis: Surviving a Civil War-Expanding the Scope of Survival Analysis in Political Science.

Topic: Statistical methods for civil war cease-fire agreement data.

Advisor: John R. Stevens

B.S. in Applied Mathematics, Weber State University, Ogden, UT— May 2017

Advisor: Julian Chan

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Research Scientist & Applied Statistician — Avian Population Studies;

Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Cornell University: August 2024 — Present
Summary: Develop causal machine learning models for integrated high resolution trend estimation from structured and opportunistic data.

Investigate use of causal machine learning methods to improve wildlife study design and effects of bird ID applications on the observation processes in opportunistic data. Provide statistical consulting for research staff in the Center for Avian Population Studies and Yang Center for Bioacoustics.

Research Associate — Division of Biology and Dept. of Statistics
Kansas State University: February 2024 — August 2024

Summary: Maintain an active research agenda in applied statistics, quantitative ecology, wildlife management, and conservation ecology. Supervision of postdoctoral fellows and graduates student in ongoing quantitative assessment of the viability of prairie grouse species and mule deer in Kansas.

Postdoctoral Scientist — Dept. of Statistics and Division of Biology,
Kansas State University: March 2022 — February 2024

Summary: Development and application of statistical and machine learning methods for conservation and wildlife management applications with Trevor Hefley, David Haukos, and Daniel Walsh. Funded by the USGS.

Graduate Instructor of Mathematics and Statistics —

UW-Milwaukee: August 2019 - May 2022

Utah State University: August 2017 - December 2018

Research Assistant — Utah State University: May 2018 - August 2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental statistics with applications to Remote Sensing, Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Telemetry, Wildlife management, Effects of Anthropogenic and Agricultural development on Wildlife, Spread of Disease in Wildlife Populations, Agriculture, Plant Phenology; Function Data Analysis, Spatial Statistics, Machine Learning, Statistical Visualization, Data Integration.

PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

1. Andrew B. Whetten et al. 2026. "R-Learner Data Integration for Estimating Population Trends From Opportunistic and Structured Survey Data." *Environmetrics* 37, no. 6: e70116. <https://doi.org/10.1002/env.70116>.
2. Andrew B. Whetten, Trevor J. Hefley, Daniel P. Walsh. "A Tale of Two Management Plans: Evaluation of wildlife disease management for a state-line outbreak." *PNAS-Nexus*. pgaf387. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgaf387>
3. Whetten, Andrew B., Trevor J. Hefley, David A. Haukos, and Dustin E. Brewer. "Simple Bagged Movement Models for Telemetry Data." *Ecology and Evolution* 15, no. 9 (2025): e72060.
4. Whetten, Andrew B., Trevor J. Hefley, and David A. Haukos. "Estimation of contact time among animals from telemetry data." *The American Statistician* 79, no. 2 (2025): 265-274.

5. Fernando, Sergio, Andrew Whetten, and Joel Alcantara. "Use of the Evidence-Based practice Attitude and utilization SurVEy to determine the use of evidence-based practice by chiropractic students." *The journal of chiropractic education* 39 (2025): eJCE-21.
6. Aspray, Elise Kole, Timothy A. Mies, Jesse A. McGrath, Christopher M. Montes, Bradley Dalsing, Kannan K. Puthuval, Andrew Whetten et al. "Two decades of fumigation data from the soybean free air concentration enrichment facility." *Scientific Data* 10, no. 1 (2023): 226.
7. Whetten, Andrew Benjamin. "Spline Modeling and Localized Mutual Information Monitoring of Pairwise Associations in Animal Movement." PhD diss., The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2022.
8. Whetten, Andrew B., and Hannah J. Demler. "Detection of Multidecadal Changes in Vegetation Dynamics and Association with Intra-Annual Climate Variability in the Columbia River Basin." *Remote Sensing* 14, no. 3 (2022): 569.
9. Whetten, Andrew B. "Smoothing splines of apex predator movement: Functional modeling strategies for exploring animal behavior and social interactions." *Ecology and Evolution* 11, no. 24 (2021): 17786-17800.
10. Whetten, A. B. (2021) Characterizing Clustering Models of High-dimensional Remotely Sensed Data Using Subsampled Field-subfield Spatial Cross-validated Random Forests, *International Journal of Geospatial and Environmental Research*: Vol. 8 : No. 3 , Article 4.
11. Alcantara, Joel, Andrew Whetten, and Joey Alcantara. "Towards a safety culture in chiropractic: The use of the safety, communication, Operational Reliability, and engagement (SCORE) questionnaire." *Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice* 42 (2021): 101266.
12. Whetten, Andrew B., John R. Stevens, and Damon Cann. "The implementation of random survival forests in conflict management data: An examination of power sharing and third party mediation in post-conflict countries." *PloS one* 16, no. 5 (2021): e0250963.
13. Alcantara, Joel, Andrew Whetten, and Joey Alcantara. "Towards a safety culture in chiropractic: The use of the safety, communication, Operational Reliability, and engagement (SCORE) questionnaire." *Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice* 42 (2021): 101266.
14. Joel Alcantara, Andrew B. Whetten, Junjoe Alcantara. Comparison of child report and parent-proxy report using PROMIS-25 in the chiropractic care for children. *Complementary Therapies in Medicine*. Aug 2020.

15. Joel Alcantara, Andrew Whetten, Jeanne Ohm, Junjoe Alcantara. The quality of life of children under chiropractic care as measured by the PROMIS parent-proxy short forms. *Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice*. May 2020.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

1. Dustin E. Brewer, Andrew B. Whetten, Thomas M. Gehring, Robert J. Gates, Nicole M. Hengst. Leveraging telemetry data from common species to identify threats to imperiled relatives. Pending Submission to *Conservation Biology* February 2025.
2. Andrew B. Whetten, David H. Haukos, Kent Fricke, Rachel Rusten. A Lek Check-up: A Historical Assessment of Prairie Grouse Lek Persistence in Kansas. Under Review at *Biological Conservation* December 2025.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS (titles and author lists not all finalized)

3. Daniel Fink, Renata M. Diaz, Andrew B. Whetten, Tom Auer, et al. Population trajectory estimation using multi-arm double machine learning models for participatory science data. Pending Submission to *Environmetrics*.
4. Caroline Cappello, Andrew Stillman, Andrew B. Whetten, Daniel Fink, Renata M. Diaz, et al. Assessing drivers of population change for Pinyon Jay populations in the continental United States. Publication outlet TBD.
5. Elisabeth Teige, David H. Haukos, Dan Sullins, Andrew B. Whetten. Evaluation of CRP use intensity by lesser prairie-chickens from movement data. Publication outlet TBD.

CURRENT PROJECTS (titles and author lists not all finalized)

Andrew B. Whetten, Wesley Hochachka, Daniel Fink, Rachel Drake, Alison Johnston. Assessing the effects of the Merlin Sound Identification Application on the eBird project observation process.

Courses Taught: Summary - (9 course - 16 sections)

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

- Course: Elementary Statistical Analysis - MthStat 215
Texts: Weiss *Elementary Statistics 9e*; Mann *Introductory Statistics 10e*,
Dates: Spring2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020
- Course: Algebraic Literacy - MATH 098
Dates: Fall 2019

Utah State University

- Course: Intermediate College Algebra - MATH 1050

Text: Ratti, McWaters, and Skrzypek (2017) Precalculus: A Unit Circle Approach 3e;
Dates: Fall 2018

- Course: Calculus I - MATH 1210
Text: Hass, Weir, and Thomas (2016) *University Calculus: Early Transcendentals 3e*
Dates: Spring 2018
- Course: Introduction to Statistics - STAT 1040
Text: Freedman, Pisani, and Purves (2007) *Statistics*
Dates: Fall 2017

Journal Reviewer Service

Journal of Wildlife Management. Wiley. 2025

Nature Ecology and Evolution. Nature. 2025

Scientific Reports. Nature. 2025

Communications Biology. Nature. 2025

Environmental Data Science. Cambridge Press. 2024

Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation. Wiley. 2023

Environmental and Ecological Statistics. Springer Journal Series. 2023.

International Journal of Geographic and Environmental Research. UWM Digital Commons. 2022.

Simulation: Transactions of The Society for Modeling and Simulation International. Sage Journals. 2022.

Political Analysis. Cambridge University Press. 2020.

Professional Organizations/Membership

Maven Outdoor Professionals Program; 2023-2024

American Statistical Association; 2021 -2022, 2023-2025

Conferences / Professional Meetings Attended

Kansas Natural Resource Conference: February 2024; Manhattan, KS.

USGS Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Annual Unit Meeting; August 2023, 2022; Manhattan, KS.

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Meeting: February 2023; Overland Park, KS.

Coordinating Committee Meeting for the Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit: July 2022

ASA's ENVR Annual Meeting: October 2021, 2020

Together We Teach, USU Department of Mathematics and Statistics: September 2018

Consulting/Service (* indicates led to more substantial collaborations, including publications, co-authorship on future publications, or grant applications)

* David Haukos, PhD (USGS KS Co-op Unit Leader): April 2023 - Present. Statistical consultant on Lesser prairie-chicken conservation ecology research.

* Dustin Brewer, PhD (MO Co-Op Research Staff): March 2023 - Present. Statistical consultant for rail species movement ecology in Michigan; part of an ongoing collaboration with Robert Gates, PhD (OSU), Thomas Gehring, PhD (CMU), and member of Michigan DNR and USFWS.

*Adrian Correndo, PhD (Department of Agronomy, KSU; University of Guelph): Jan 2023 - Present. Statistical consultant for exploratory analysis of nitrogen-yield curves.

*Elise Kole Aspray, PhD (USDA ARS, UIUC): May 2021 - Present. Data science consultant for big free-air concentration enrichment facility (FACE) data processing and short-term yield predictive from FACE experiments.

*Joel Alcantara DC, PhD (Research Director of ICPA): July 2018 - July 2022. Long term collaboration as the International Chiropractic Pediatric Association's Principal Biostatistician. Consultant for Quality of Life and Sense of Coherence Studies in PBRN, Experimental Design for Clinical Trials.

Founding President of the Data Science Club@UWM: Spring 2020-Present

The DSC@UWM is currently a graduate and undergraduate student organization with 45 members from 7 departments across UWM. The organization was founded to aid students in crossing artificial departmental boundaries in order to share knowledge, experience, and best practices in the dynamic field of data science.

Presentations

- Research Seminar (6/13/2025): CLO S&T. Propensity Model Estimation and Interpretation for Multi-level Treatment Effects.
- Research Seminar (12/9/2024): CLO S&T. Propensity Model Exploration: Documenting multidimensional changes in survey observation processes over time.
- Research Seminar pt ii (10/24/2024): CLO S&T. Investigating the Heterogeneous Effects of Merlin Sound ID on Detection Probability of American Crow.
- Research Seminar pt I (10/24/2024): CLO S&T. A Causal Machine Learning Framework for Investigating the Effects of Detection Equipment on Surveyor Detection Rates.
- Research Seminar (4/8/2024): USGS KS-Cooperative Wildlife Seminar. An Introduction to Bagging Animal Movement Models.
- Research Seminar (2/8/2024). Kansas Natural Resource Conference. A Lek Check-up: A historical assessment of prairie grouse lek persistence in Kansas.
- Research Seminar (8/3/2023). USGS Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Annual Meeting. Estimating Contact Time Among Animals from Telemetry Data.
- Research Seminar (7/13/2023). Great Lakes Researcher Center — Michigan Technological University: Data Science Practice and Theory in the Environmental and Biological Sciences.
- Research Seminar (3/4/2023). Central Michigan University - Department of Statistics and the Institute for Great Lakes Research. Data Science Practice and Theory in the Environmental and Biological Sciences.
- Research Seminar (2/24/2023). Northern Michigan University - Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Data Science Practice and Theory in the Environmental and Biological Sciences.
- Teaching Workshop (2/24/2023). Northern Michigan University - Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Interactive Data Visualization in R.
- Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Overland Park, KS (2/13/2023). Wildlife Methods and Techniques Series. Bayesian Machine Learning for Animal Telemetry Data.

- Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Overland Park, KS (2/13/2023). Wildlife Methods and Techniques Series. A Framework for Clustering Trajectories of Animal Movement from Environmental Data.
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Seminar (2/2/2023). Kansas State University - Division of Biology. A Framework for Clustering Trajectories of Animal Movement from Environmental Data.
- Graduate Student Colloquium. UWM Department of Mathematical Sciences (04/15/2022). Detection of Multidecadal Changes in Vegetation Dynamics and Association with Intra-Annual Climate Variability in the Columbia River Basin.
- Dissertation Defense. UWM Department of Mathematical Sciences (04/01/2022) Spline Modeling and Localized Mutual Information Monitoring of Pairwise Associations in Animal Movement.
- BYU Statistics Dept. Research Colloquium (12/10/21) - Localized Mutual Information Monitoring of Pairwise Associations in Animal Movement
- Weber State Undergraduate Big Data Seminar (11/22/2021) - Functional Modeling of High-Dimensional Remotely Sensed Phenological Data + Data Science Career Progression in Grad School
- ENVR 2021 Mixer (10/01/21) - ENVR Data Challenge Winner Presentations - Detection of Multidecadal Changes in Vegetation Dynamics and Association with Intra-annual Climate Variability in the Columbia River Basin
- Data Science Club @ UWM Colloquium (9/10/21) - An Overview of Data Science and Critical Thinking Strategies for \emph{Wicked} Learning Environments.
- USDA Ainsworth Lab Colloquium (4/16/21) - Monitoring Shift in Regional Plant Phenology from High-dimensional Remotely Sense Satellite Data.
- Data Science Club @ UWM Colloquium (10/16/20) - "The Fundamentals of RShiny Interactively presenting your research using app development packages in R."
- Data Science Club @ UWM Colloquium (9/11/20) - "R Crash Course: Basics of Data manipulation and visualization in R."
- Data Science Club @ UWM Colloquium (9/04/20) - "Research Presentation: A functional approach to atmospheric reanalysis data: Regional climate detection and the effects of a changing climate on the Great Lakes"
- Surviving a Civil War: Expanding the Scope of Survival Analysis in Political Science.
- October 2018. Utah State University. Masters Thesis Defense.
- Improvements in Quality of Life of Patients Under Chiropractic Care in a Practice-Based Research Network. Joel Alcantara, DC, Andrew Whetten, MS, Jeanne Ohm, DC, and Joey Alcantara. Presented at ACC-RAC. Baltimore, MD. Mar 14-16, 2019

- The Predictive Relationship between Quality of Life Domains and Sense of Coherence Among Chiropractic Patients Presenting for Care in a Practice-Based Research Network. Joel Alcantara, DC, Andrew Whetten, MS, Jeanne Ohm, DC, and Joey Alcantara. Presented at ACC-RAC. Baltimore, MD. Mar 14-16, 2019

Misc. Honors and Awards

- ENVR Data Challenge 2021 Honorable Mention (awarded to 2nd place)
- Ernst Schwandt Teaching Award - Department of Mathematical Sciences - UWM
- Chancellor's Research Award 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 - UWM
- ENVR Data Challenge 2020 1st place submission
- Presidential Scholarship, Weber State University, 2013-2017.
- Merlon L. Stevenson Mathematics Scholarship , Weber State University, 2016.
- Rensselaer Medal Recipient for Math and Science, Druid Hills High School, 2012.
- 2nd Place Finish, New Balance Outdoor Track and Field Nationals Emerging Elite 800m Dash, Greensboro, North Carolina, 2012.
- 2nd Place Finish, World Youth Track and Field Trials 1500m Dash, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, 2011.

Feature Conservation Photography:

Cornell Chronicle Magazine. Climate change leaves northern tree swallows most vulnerable. July 2026. Access: <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2026/07/climate-change-leaves-northern-tree-swallows-most-vulnerable>

(c) Andrew Whetten — Tree Swallow Nesting Box.

Original Image: <https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/634350938>

WXXI News NPR. Rochester. When wildfire smoke rolled in from Canada, these birds went quiet. April 2026. Access: <https://www.wxxinews.org/local-news/2026-04-08/when-wildfire-smoke-rolled-in-from-canada-these-birds-went-quiet>

(c) Andrew Whetten — Bobolink on post.

Original Image: <https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/638356157>

(c) Andrew Whetten — Foraging Eastern Meadowlark.

Original Image: <https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/632154639>