LINDSAY D. ROSA

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Non-profit leader with extensive background in building programs and networks to collaboratively generate solutions for nature conservation. Dedicated, thought leader skilled at strategy development, problem-setting, troubleshooting, and developing and maintaining relationships with partners from diverse sectors and geographies. Broad experience developing and managing programs across a range of disciplines, with analytical mind for monitoring and evaluating results. Motivated to inspire teams to achieve ambitious outcomes and learn from their process.

SKILLS

- Strategic Leadership
- Program Innovation & Management
- Communications
- Partnership Development

- Team Building
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Problem Setting & Solving
- Adaptive Learning

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

Defenders of Wildlife
Vice President of Conservation Research and Innovation, 2022 - present
Senior Scientist, 2019 – 2022

Lead a high performing interdisciplinary team of scientists, policy analysts, and web developers charged with innovating creative, pragmatic solutions for conservation. Oversee the development, operation, and assessment of programs, measuring and evaluating their impact. Work with staff to ensure consistent, high-quality program and grants management. Apply technical competencies in scientific research, GIS, etc. when additional capacity is needed. Curate a group of Science Advisors for the organization. Strategically build internal and external relationships to advance programmatic goals, and bring in new sources of revenue. Identify key opportunities for amplifying program objectives and increase awareness. Publicly represent the organization and build excitement for the mission. Deliver reports to board members, donors, and grant funders.

Some highlights:

- Developed a new process for work planning and priority setting that focuses and aligns the work across conservation programs. Led planning coordination and development of strategic plan.
- Organized 5+ major workshops that brought together partners from academia, government, NGOs and Tribes. Built a community of practice to guide more effective incorporation of data in federal decision-making.
- Secured 4 new major funding sources (grants and foundations) for the organization. Over the past year, this resulted in $750k.
- Led the development of 4 technical reports as author, editor, designer, published 10+ scientific articles, and applied technologies for data analysis, synthesis and

communications including 30+ storymaps, 10+ web apps or dashboards, and 5+ automated flows for project management.
- Represented the views of the organization in many invited talks or secured media opportunities. Major ones include National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, UN Conference on Biological Diversity, C-SPAN, The Guardian, The Atlantic, and The Hill.
- Wrote draft resolutions on a National Biodiversity Strategy and secured key legislators to introduce it in House and Senate. Led organizational strategy and involvement in emerging issues relevant to the organization (e.g., America the Beautiful initiative/30x30).

State of Vermont
Geospatial Program Manager, 2018 – 2019

Led a team of analysts that serve as a key resource to the state government and the general public. Curated and managed statewide programs for assessing environmental impacts with emerging technologies and data. Supported long-term, internal, program planning for statewide programs and for maintenance of key resources and databases. Guided teams on the strategic use of scientific information for achieving program goals.

Some highlights:
- Developed and led a ground-based LiDAR program for innovative solutions to infrastructure maintenance and natural resources management.
- Built and deployed GIS tools for streamlining field data collection, sharing, and communications.

Middlebury College
Teaching Faculty, 2016 – 2019

Led and mentored a team of researchers in designing and implementing self-led projects. Developed curriculum and resources in landscape conservation. Designed and taught courses to expand technical skill application across the liberal arts curriculum. Supported the development of new approaches (e.g., flipped classrooms) and learning resources. Published and presented scientific research.

Some highlights:
- Acquired and budgeted internal funding to facilitate new partnerships between classrooms and local groups (e.g., town commissions, NGOs, state agencies).

University of Connecticut
Natural Resources Conservation Academy, 2012 – 2018

While in graduate studies at the University of Connecticut, the department received an anonymous gift to create a new program. Supported development of a new residential summer program to bring together high school students of diverse backgrounds interested in conservation issues. Created and coordinated program activities, managed staff and conducted annual program evaluations. Facilitated partnerships between participants and local conservation partners. Eventually became a conservation partner, supporting projects for 3 students.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (*See Google Scholar)

Niederman, TE; Aronson, JN; Gainsbury, A; **Dreiss, LM**. 2025. U.S. Imperiled Species and the Five Drivers of Biodiversity Loss. BioScience *DOI: 10.1093/biosci/biaf019*.

Dreiss, LM; Rice MB. 2025. Finding climate refugia on the US National Wildlife Refuge System: a focus on strategic growth values. Conservation Science and Practice *DOI: 10.1111/csp2.70069*.

Dreiss, LM; Anderson, AG; Bateman, BL; Belote, RT; Michalak, JL; Rich, MB. Agreeing that maps can disagree: moving away from map confusion in conservation. BioScience *DOI: 10.1093/biosci/biae008*.

(Report) Carter, A.; **Rosa, L**. 2024. The Endangered Species Act: the next 50 years and beyond. https://defenders-cci.org/files/The_Endangered_Species_Act_at_50.pdf

(Report) **Rosa, L**; Nunes, L.; Niederman, T. 2023. Biodiversity in Crisis: exploring threats to America's most imperiled species. https://defenders-cci.org/files/5_Drivers_Report.pdf

Gerber, LR; Schwartz, MW; **Dreiss, LM**. 2023. The U.S. needs a National Biodiversity Strategy. Conservation Science and Practice *DOI: 10.1111/csp2.13028*

Carroll, C; Noss, RF; **Dreiss, LM;** Hamilton, H; Stein BA. 2023. Four challenges to an effective national nature assessment. Conservation Biology *DOI: 10.1111/cobi.14075*

Dreiss, LM; Delach, A; Weber, T; Malcom, J. 2022. Targeting current species ranges and carbon stocks fails to conserve biodiversity in a changing climate: supporting climate adaptation under 30x30. Environmental Research Letters *DOI: 10.1088/1748-9326/ac4f8c*

Dreiss, LM; Malcom, JW. 2022. Identifying federal, state, and private lands strategies for achieving 30x30 in the US. Conservation Letters ***DOI: 10.1111/conl.12849***

Belote, RT; Barnet, K; Dietz, MS; Burkle, L; Jenkins, CN; **Dreiss, LM**; Aycrigg, JL; Aplet, GH. 2021. Options for prioritizing 30% of the contiguous US for biodiversity conservation: implications for "30 by 30". Biological Conservation *DOI: 10.1016/j.biocon.2021.109378*

Dreiss, LM; Kloster, DP; Liberati, MR; Barclay, JR; Hessenauer, JM; Nathan, LR; O'Connor, KM; Vokoun, JC. 2015. Introducing adaptive management for natural resources: an estuary case study. Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education 44: 1-10.

Dreiss, LM; Volin, JC. 2013. Influence of leaf phenology and site nitrogen on invasive species establishment in temperate deciduous forest understories. Forest Ecology and Management, 296: 1-8.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Natural Resources, University of Connecticut
M.S. in Natural Resources, University of Connecticut
B.A. in Environmental Science, Colby College

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2021 – present *Teaching Faculty*, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
2020 – present *Faculty Affiliate*, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
2020 – present *Program Host*, Women Inspiring Successful Enterprise, Manhattan, NY
2016 – present *Science Mentor*, Skype-A-Scientist, remote
2012 – present *Intern Supervisor*. 3 graduate, 20+ undergraduates, and 5 high school students

Drivers of the Biodiversity Crisis Series, 2023-2024: Host and present in state-focused webinars and in-person events highlighting the threats to nature and the ongoing research and conservation solutions that audiences can support.

Spatial Conservation Workshop Host, 2023-2024: Developing a unified framework for planning at the intersection of biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, and nature equity

Endangered Species Act at 50 - Legislative Successes and Challenges in Protecting Imperiled Wildlife: Symposium lead on Strengthening the Commitment

California Climate Action Initiative 2023, Conservation and Restoration Review Panel

NACCB 2022 Conference Symposium and Opening Plenary Organizer: Conservation science principles for mapping 30x30 objectives and outcomes

Active Memberships: Ecological Society of America (ESA), Society of American Foresters (SAF), American Association of Geographers (AAG), Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS), Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)