TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Davis College
Natural Resources Management™

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Student Name: Hayden C. Hays

Degree Sought: PhD, Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildlands Science and Management

Specialty: Aquatic Ecology, Crayfish Conservation, Metacommunities

Hometown, State/Country: Haslet, TX

Research Interests or Projects:

I graduated from Colorado State University (CSU) in 2016 with a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences. After graduating, I attended Sam Houston State University (SHSU) to complete a Master's degree in Biological Sciences. While at SHSU, I studied the mating system of two invasive crayfish, the red swamp (Procambarus clarkii) and virile (Faxonius virilis) crayfish, which ultimately culminated in a Master's thesis summer of 2019. During fall of 2019, I joined the Department of Natural Resources Management (NRM) at Texas Tech University (TTU). While at TTU I have continued my passion for crayfish conservation, most notably studying the rare Kisatchie painted crayfish (Faxonius maletae). Additionally, my research interests have brodened in scope to studying aquatic macroinvertebrate communities in arid aquatic ecosystems. Currently, my research revolves around the dispersal of aquatic invertebrates between ephemeral habitats in central Texas and northeastern New Mexico. I am particularly excited about a long-term project in Junction, TX where I am looking at different aspects of metacommunity ecology across a network of pond mesocosms. Aside from ongoing research activities, I am also responsible for teaching the largest lecture in our department (NRM1401). This course regularly contains 300+ students that come from a wide variety of backgrounds and majors; educating a diverse student body is incredibly rewarding and has allowed me the ability to build additional skills in pedagogy. Looking to the future, I plan to remain in Academia for forever (lifelong student here), teaching and doing research at a mid-size university somewhere in the world. When not working or on campus, I enjoy spedning my time outdoors (i.e., camping, hiking, kayaking) or at home with wonderful dog, Ryder.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
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