

# Kyle M. Brooks

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## CURRENT POSITION

**Public Affairs Specialist (GS-7)**

**July 2020 - Present**

*U.S. Forest Service*

Primary duty is to plan, organize, and disseminate information about the Wayne National Forest both internally and externally while fostering public involvement. Tasks include developing strategic and communication plans, assisting with public meetings, developing and leading education and outreach events, writing and editing both technical and plain-language documents, producing digital and print content (e.g., social media posts, newsletters, and interactive webpages), producing high-quality photographs and videos, analyzing public trends, ensuring reports and other documents follow U.S. Department of Agriculture and Forest Service stylistic policies, and ensuring compliance with accessibility standards (Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

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## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Science, Wildlife & Conservation Biology**

**2013 - 2017**

*Ohio University*

Department of Biological Sciences

3.74 GPA

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## PUBLICATIONS

Hantak MH, **Brooks KM**, Hickerson CAM, Anthony CD, Kuchta SR. 2020. A Spatiotemporal Assessment of Dietary Partitioning Between Color Morphs of a Terrestrial Salamander. *Copeia*. 108(4):727-736

Forest Service (**Brooks KM contributing author**). 2020. At-Risk Species Supplemental Report. Nelsonville (OH): United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Wayne National Forest. [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd766394.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd766394.pdf)

Forest Service (**Brooks KM contributing author**). 2020. Wayne National Forest Assessment. Nelsonville (OH): United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Wayne National Forest. [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd766399.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd766399.pdf)

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## COMMUNICATION EXPERIENCE

### **Public Affairs Specialist**

**June 2019 - July 2020**

*Greening Youth Foundation*

Primary duty was to increase awareness of and participation in the Wayne National Forest's land management plan revision process, while helping educate members of the public on the science behind conservation and management actions. Tasks included acting as a core member of the forest plan revision team, acting as the primary editor for government reports, assisting with public meetings, developing and leading education and outreach events, producing digital and print content (e.g., social media posts, newsletters, and interactive webpages), directing interns, and assisting the Wayne National Forest's public affairs program.

### **Photojournalism Research Assistant**

**June 2018 - May 2019**

*Greening Youth Foundation*

Primary duty was to "tell the story" of the Wayne National Forest, and present that information in the context of the Wayne's land management plan revision process. Tasks included being a core member of the forest plan revision team, acting as the primary photographer for noteworthy events, writing articles for third-party organizations, producing digital and print content using Adobe Creative Cloud programs, and assisting with education and outreach events.

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### **Wildlife Intern**

**May 2017 - Aug. 2017**

*Ohio University & U.S. Forest Service*

Primary duty was to effectively coordinate with Forest Service and Ohio University staff to conduct wildlife surveys to meet National Environmental Policy Act requirements. Field tasks included conducting general and species-specific wildlife surveys using a variety of methods (e.g., opportunistic, point-counts, trapping, etc.), mapping habitat features, and safely navigating National Forest System land using GPS devices and paper maps. Lab duties included using ArcGIS to model potential habitats for sensitive species, preparing survey reports, and writing articles for public outreach.

### **Research Assistant**

**2014 - 2017**

*Ohio University, Dr. Shawn R. Kuchta Lab*

Primary duty was to conduct a dietary study of the Red-Backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*). Tasks included identifying all invertebrates in stomach content and leaf litter samples using a dissecting microscope, and accurately recording and proofing data.

### **Field Technician**

**May 2016 - Aug. 2016**

*Ohio University, Dr. Donald Miles Lab*

Primary duty was to assist a graduate student with an ongoing thermal ecology project on lizards (*Urosaurus ornatus*, *Sceloporus clarkii*, and *Cophosaurus texanus*). Tasks included finding and catching lizards, safely handling various Sonoran Desert wildlife species, navigating rough roads with a 4WD vehicle, recording morphological data, and performing thermal experiments.

**Field Technician**

**2014 - 2015**

*Ohio University, Dr. Shawn R. Kuchta Lab*

Primary duty was to assist a graduate student with an ongoing landscape-scale ecological study on Red-Backed Salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*). Tasks included finding salamanders, recording morphological data, taking DNA samples, photographing specimens, and stomach-flushing salamanders.

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Educator**

**March 2018 - May 2018**

*The Ecology School*

Primary duty was to safely facilitate immersive residential and day programs both indoors and outdoors with children in grades K-8. Classes taught included beach and dune ecology, forest ecology, tide pool ecology, salt marsh ecology, abiotic factors, and nature at night.

**Outdoor Education Field Instructor**

**Sept. 2017 - Nov. 2017**

*Clemson Youth Learning Institute*

Primary duty was to safely facilitate immersive residential programs outdoors with children in grades 3-6. Classes taught included wildlife ecology, aquatic ecology, soil ecology, salt marsh ecology, forestry, barrier island and beach geology, and marine life.

**Ornithology Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**

**Aug. 2016 - Dec. 2016**

*Ohio University, Department of Biological Sciences*

Primary duty was to assist the professor and graduate teaching assistant with the class. Tasks included setting up and facilitating labs, planning and facilitating in-state and out-of-state field trips, and instructing how to identify birds by sight and sound along with introductory methods in observation.

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**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

**Undergraduate Lab Technician**

**Aug. 2015 – April 2016**

*Ohio University, Department of Biological Sciences*

Primary duty involved animal husbandry. Tasks included cleaning fish tanks and visually inspecting fish health.

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**ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS**

**Brooks KM, Hantak MH, Kuchta SR.** 2018. The Diet of a Polymorphic Salamander: An Examination Across Space and Time. *John Carroll University & Ohio University Herpetology Symposium.*

**Brooks KM**, Hantak MH, Kuchta SR. 2015. Differences in the Diet of the Striped and Lead Color Morphs of the Eastern Red-Backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*). *John Carroll University & Ohio University Herpetology Symposium*.

**Brooks KM**, Hantak MH, Kuchta SR. 2015. Differences in the Diet of the Striped and Lead Color Morphs of the Eastern Red-Backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*). *Beta Beta Beta Research Fair*.

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## GUEST LECTURES & FIELD TRIPS

- 2020        “*Wildlife Management at the Wayne National Forest*” – Ohio University, Department of Biological Sciences, Course: Wildlife Management
- 2020        “*The Importance of Communication in Conservation Biology*” – Ohio University, Department of Biological Sciences, Course: Animal Conservation Biology
- 2019        “*Wildlife Conservation at the Wayne National Forest*” – Ohio University, Department of Biological Sciences, Course: Wildlife Management
- 2019        “*History of the Baileys Tract*” – Ohio University, Department of Economics, Course: Economics of Altruism
- 2019        “*Land Management & Communication*” – Ohio University, Department of Biological Sciences, Course: Animal Conservation Biology
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## OUTREACH & SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

### Presentations

- 2018        “*Science Communication: what it is, why it’s important, and how YOU can do it!*” – Ohio University Wildlife Club (Invited)
- 2017        “*Why does my field guide keep changing?*” – The Athens Area Birders (Invited)
- 2016        “*Birds of Ohio: A look at the biodiversity of birds in our backyard*” – Ohio University Wildlife Club

### Articles

- 2017        “*Working on the Wayne: An Ending Note*” – Ohio University College of Arts and Sciences Forum (Guest Article)
- 2017        “*Snazzy Snakes*” – Ohio University College of Arts and Sciences Forum (Guest Article)
- 2017        “*Awesome Arthropods Abound*” – Ohio University College of Arts and Sciences Forum (Guest Article)

## **Events**

- 2019 Team Leader for Ohio University Biological Sciences Graduate Society BioBlast
- 2018 Organizer of Wayne National Forest Mothing Night Event
- 2017 Trip Leader (Plants and Birds) for the Ohio Ornithological Society's Warblers & Wildflowers Weekend
- 2016 Trip Leader (Birds) for the Ohio Ornithological Society's Warblers & Wildflowers Weekend
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## **SERVICE**

- 2016 - 2017 President of the Ohio University Wildlife Club (Elected)
- 2014 - 2016 Secretary of the Ohio University Wildlife Club (Elected)
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