

New Executive Board Member Bio – Aran Johnson



My name is Aran Johnson and I work as a wildlife biologist for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. I grew up near Winona, MN along the Mississippi River. I've been a hunter and fisherman since I can remember, helped along by my grandfather, father and brother. I started my college career at the University of Wisconsin and transferred to the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay after one year to pursue a cross country skiing scholarship and subsequently graduated from UWGB in 1995 with a BS in Biology. In 1999 I was accepted to the University of Wyoming in the Coop Unit to study the response of riparian bird communities to logging practices in the Snowy Range near Laramie. I graduated with an MS in 2001. I stayed on with the Coop Unit for two more years as a research assistant having the chance to work on a variety of projects including investigating blood lead levels in young golden eagles and ferruginous hawks whose nests were near actively shot prairie dog towns in the Powder River

Basin.

In 2003 I accepted my current position with the Tribe. As a wildlife biologist with the Tribe I spend most of my time focusing on big game management, including designing and implementing habitat improvement and water development projects, flying annual classification flights and conducting research to better understand deer and elk migration patterns on and off of the reservation. I also assist with hunt management for tribal members for both on-reservation and off-reservation treaty area hunting.

In my free time I enjoy skiing, cycling and of course hunting and fishing. My wife and I are having a great time showing our six year old daughter the joys of the outdoors!