

Ellen Marie Candler
Assistant Professor of Wildlife
University of Alaska Fairbanks
(907) 474-6642
emcandler@alaska.edu
CURRICULUM VITAE

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Ellen Candler's experience is studying anthropogenic food subsidies and their influence on consumer composition, animal behavior, and human dimensions of wildlife. Particularly her research focuses on hunter provided food sources, such as hunter bait and hunter provided gut piles, and how the pulsed nature of these hunter provided food sources might influence consumer species. Her applied work currently involves incorporating citizen science into ecological and human dimensions questions regarding hunter provided gut piles. Candler co-founded the Offal Wildlife Watching project, which involves Minnesota hunter citizen scientists as well as citizen scientists from all over the world that participate via the Zooniverse platform. This interdisciplinary research has collaborators from ecology to veterinary medicine, human dimensions, and science education. Candler's interest in wildlife ecology was born from childhood experiences in the outdoors. The reintroduction of wolves to Idaho and Yellowstone inspired her curiosity in human and wildlife interaction research.

EDUCATION

PhD: Conservation Science-Wildlife Ecology and Management	Saint Paul, MN
Advisor: Dr. Joseph Bump	December 2021
Dissertation: The Hunter's Pulse: Non-target consumer use, hunter participation, and prey behavior shift in reference to hunter bait sites	
University of Minnesota	
Overall GPA: 4.00	
BS: Wildlife Ecology and Management	Houghton, MI
Michigan Technological University (MI Tech)	April 2012
Departmental GPA: 3.68; Overall GPA: 3.56-Cum Laude	
Graduate non-degree student	Missoula, MT
University Of Montana	Spring 2013
Overall GPA: 3.57	

APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Wildlife	Fairbanks, AK
University of Alaska Fairbanks	Fall 2024-present
Postdoctoral Researcher	St. Paul, MN
University Of Minnesota	Fall 2022-Summer2024
Offal Wildlife Watching project, Co-PI	

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Fellow	8/15-8/20
• Three years of support-\$138,000	
• Graduate Research Internship Program (GRIP)-\$5,000	6/2018-6/2019
University of Minnesota Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship	9/2020-5/2021
• Nine months of support-\$25,000 stipend	
• Tuition funding provided	

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)-co-PI

7/2022-6/2024

- Offal Wildlife Watching: How Do Hunters' Provisions Impact Scavengers?
 - Two years of support
 - Fully funded research project-\$473,000
- Small-Mammals and Hunter Participation: Expanded Offal Wildlife Watching
 - Two years of support
 - Fully funded research project-\$563,000

7/2025-6/2027

JOURNAL PEER REVIEWER

- Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution
- Journal of Applied Ecology
- Human-Wildlife Interactions
- BioScience

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Biological Conservation (Instructor)-University of Alaska Fairbanks

Spring 2024

Survey of Wildlife Science (Instructor)-University of Alaska Fairbanks

Fall 2024

Mammalogy (Instructor)-University of Alaska Fairbanks

Fall 2024

Human Dimensions of Wildlife (Instructor)-University of Minnesota

Spring 2022, 2023, 2024

Intro to Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology (Instructor)- University of Minnesota

Fall 2022

Principles of Wildlife Management (Teaching Assistant)-University of Minnesota

Fall 2018, 2019

Camera trap history and use guest lecture (2019)

Camera trap research applications guest lecture (2019)

Who cares about wildlife? (2020, 2021 invited lecture)

Principals of Conservation Science (Teaching Assistant)-University of Minnesota

Spring 2020

Overharvest guest lecture (2020)

Human Dimensions guest lecture (2020)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Minnesota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Winter 2019-2024

- Vice chair of Outreach and Operations for the Minnesota chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Wildlife Society Michigan Technological University Student Chapter

Spring 2010-spring 2012

- Representing the Michigan Tech Wildlife Society Student Chapter as Vice-President

Blue Key National Honor Society

Spring 2010-spring 2012

- Leading a publicity/public liaison committee for Michigan Tech's Winter Carnival

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Climate Adaptation Science Center Intern

St. Paul, MN

U. S. Geological Survey

5/22-present

(Marta Lyons)

Cougar Study Intern

Mammoth, WY

Yellowstone National Park

1/16-3/16

(Daniel Stahler)

Winter Wolf/Cougar Study Intern

Mammoth, WY

Yellowstone National Park

11/14-4/15

(Daniel Stahler)

Wild Encounters Intern Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden (Caitlyn Messerschmitt)	Cincinnati, OH 8/14-10/14
Carnivore Intern Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Carnivore Project (Dr. Seth Riley, Ms. Joanne Moriarty, Mr. Jeff Sikich)	Thousand Oaks, CA 1/14-7/14
Independent Contractor Be Bear Aware Campaign (Chuck Bartlebaugh)	Missoula, MT 3/9/2013-5/14/2013
Research Technician Yellowstone Ecological Research Center (Dr. Robert Crabtree, M.S. Student Patrick Cross)	Bozeman and Cook City, MT 5/12-8/12
Field Technician/Team Leader S. M. Stoller Corporations/Gonzales-Stoller Surveillance (Mr. Doug Halford and Dr. Roger Blew)	Idaho Falls, ID Summer 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013

SKILLS

Field Work Skills

- Processing animals (red fox, bobcats, cougars, coyotes, black bears)
- Chemical immobilization certified-Safe capture
- Telemetry/GPS collar experience
- Box trapping
- Wildlife camera set-up
- Wildlife monitoring protocol development
- Judging youth science fair and 4-H projects

Technical Skills

- GIS
- R statistical software
- Windows Excel, Word, PowerPoint
- Lightroom 3.2
- Photoshop Elements
- Python
- Zooniverse

Communication

- Communicating with public in the field and at a booth
- Presenting monitoring protocols as a member of a forest management group
- Interpersonal communication with state agencies
- Educating the public about zoo animals

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Service

- Faculty advisor for The Wildlife Society University of Alaska Fairbanks student chapter 2024-present
- Kolshorn Lecture Committee-graduate student representative 2019
- Brown Bag Seminar-organizing speakers 2020-2021

The Wildlife Society

1/2011-present

- Participating as a member in the Michigan Tech and University of Montana Wildlife Society student chapters
- Participation in state and national conferences
- Awarded the 2021 Minnesota Student Conservation Award
- Minnesota chapter of The Wildlife Society Awards Committee member
- Minnesota chapter of The Wildlife Society Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee (2020-present)
- Minnesota chapter of The Wildlife Society unpaid internship position statement development (2021-2022)

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)

2016-2024

- Serving as Vice-Chair of Outreach and Operations (2020-2022)
- Representing BHA on the Minnesota wolf advisory committee (2020-2022)
- Organize and volunteering at outdoor recreation events
- Participating in North American conferences (rendezvous)
- Representing BHA on the Minnesota Climate-Smart Natural and Working Lands Planning Team (2022)

Artemis Sportswomen-National Wildlife Federation program

2022-2024

- Serving as a Minnesota state ambassador

- Speech and leader development
- Serving as club secretary (2018-2019)

PUBLICATIONS:**Peer Reviewed**

- Candler, E., G. Milanowski, A. Rager, J. Bump. 2025. Offal Wildlife Watching: connecting hunters, wildlife researchers, and the public through participatory science. *Journal of Extension*.
- Candler, Ellen M., Amy Rager, and Joseph K. Bump. "Cascading carrion: Opportunistic predation at deer gut piles." *Food Webs* 37 (2023): e00313.
- Candler, E. M., Chakrabarti, S., Severud, W. J., & Bump, J. K. (2023). Eat or be eaten: Implications of potential exploitative competition between wolves and humans across predator-savvy and predator-naive deer populations. *Ecology and Evolution*, 13(11), e10694.
- Candler, E., W. Severud, D. Beyer Jr., B. Fawley, and J. Bump. Untrapped potential: do bear hunter cameras accurately index non-target species? *Conservation Science and Practice* 4.1 (2022): e570
- Candler, E., W. Severud, and J. Bump. 2019. Who Takes the Bait? Non-target Species Use of Bear Hunter Bait Sites. *Human–Wildlife Interactions* 13(1).

In-Prep

- Candler, E., T. Gable, and J. Bump. A preliminary exploration of wolf movement in relation to bear hunter bait piles in the Greater Voyageurs Ecosystem.
- Candler, E., J. Bump, Offal Wildlife Watching: How biome and human use affects scavenger diversity and diel activity at hunter provided gut piles.
- Candler, E., A. Morris. J. Bump, Is carrion always unpredictable?
- Candler, E., J. Bump, Gut pile survival: What factors affect the temporal availability of gut piles to scavengers.

Non-peer reviewed

- Beller, Ellen M. Red Fox. 2012. Photograph. *The Wildlife Professional*. 6(4). 72. Print.
- Beller, Ellen M. Creative: Judges Award. 2014. Photograph. *The Wildlife Professional*. 8(1). 59. Print

PRESENTATIONS:

(bold indicates presenter, ** indicates invited)

- Candler E**, Bump J. Who eats bear-bait besides bears? Poster presented at: 78th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference; 2018 Jan 28-31; Milwaukee, WI.
- Candler E**, Bump J. Who eats bear-bait besides bears? Poster presented at: Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting; 2018 Feb 12-14; St. Cloud, MN.
- Candler E**, Bump J. Offal Wildlife Watching: Camera-trap Monitoring of Hunter Provided Carrion. Oral presentation: Gathering Partners annual meeting; 2019 May 17-19; Willmar, MN.
- Candler E**, Bump J. Offal Wildlife Watching: Camera-trap Monitoring of Hunter Provided Carrion. Oral presentation: Minnesota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Rendezvous; 2019 August 23-25; Staples, MN.
- Candler E**, Severud W, Bump J. Who Takes the Bait? Experimental and Hunter Observations of Non-Target Species Use of Bear Hunter Bait Sites: The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society Joint Conference; 2019 September 29-October 3; Reno, NV.
- Candler E**, Severud W, Beyer Jr, D, Fawley, B, Bump J. Untrapped potential: do bear hunter cameras accurately index non-target species: The Wildlife Society Conference; 2020 September 28- October 1; Virtual.
- Candler E****, Offal Wildlife Watching from a distance: Rocky Mountain Community Science Conference; 2020 December 4; Virtual.
- Candler E**, Severud W, Beyer Jr, D, Fawley, B, Bump J. Untrapped potential: do bear hunter cameras accurately index non-target species at bait: Midwest Fish & Wildlife Virtual Conference; 2021 February 1-4; Virtual.
- Candler E** and Bump J. Wolf Movements in Relation to Bear Hunter Bait in Northern Minnesota. Poster presented at: Midwest Fish & Wildlife Virtual Conference; 2021 February 1-4; Virtual.
- Candler E****, Offal Wildlife Watching and camera traps: 4-H Zoom Wildlife Series; 2021 February 22; Virtual.
- Candler E****, Deer behavior at bait piles with simulated and real predator presence: Behavioral Group Seminar. 2021 March 19; Virtual.

Candler E**, Hunting and Offal: Who's Eating Your Guts: Macalester College. 2021 November 17; St Paul, MN

Candler E, Chakrabarti S, Severud W, Bump J. Eat or Be Eaten: Implications of potential exploitative competition between wolves and humans across predator- savvy and -naïve deer populations: International Wolf Symposium; 2022 October 13-16; Brooklyn Park, MN

Candler E**, Camera Traps: A window into the world of wildlife. Macalester College. 2023 March 1; St Paul, MN

Candler E, Offal Wildlife Watching: How Do Hunters Provision Scavengers? Arrowhead Bowhunter's Alliance orientation. 2023 August 2; Duluth, MN.

Candler E, Bump J., and Rager, Amy. Offal Wildlife Watching: Participatory science supported research to quantifying the impact of hunter provided carrion: Ecological Society of America; 2023 August 6-10; Portland, OR.

Candler E**, Participatory Science and Offal Wildlife Watching. University of Minnesota. 2023 November; St Paul, MN

Candler E**, Camera Traps: A window into the world of wildlife. Macalester College. 2024 February; St Paul, MN

Candler E, Milanowski, G, Rager, E, and Bump J. Offal Wildlife Watching: *Participatory* science supported research to quantifying the impact of hunter provided carrion. Oral presentation: Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Rendezvous; 2024 April; Minneapolis, MN.

Candler E, Milanowski, G, Rager, A, and Bump J. Offal Wildlife Watching: Volunteer hunter-supported research quantifying scavenger occurrence at gut piles across different biomes: Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference; 2024 January; Sioux Falls, SD.

PRESS AND MEDIA COVERAGE:

Radio

Holtan, H. University of MN PhD Student Ellen Candler STILL Wants to Know About Your Offal (Gut Pile). Phenology-91.7 KAXE/90.5 KBXE Morning Show (2019).

Drieslein, R. Outdoor News Radio. Outdoor News Radio-From the pages of ODN (2019).

Drieslein, R. Outdoor News Radio. Outdoor News Radio-From the pages of ODN (2018).

Holton, H. & Latimer, J. The University of MN Wants Information on Your Gut Pile! Otherwise known as Offal (not awful). Phenology-91.7 KAXE/90.5 KBXE Morning Show (2018).

Podcast

Luginbill, D. FullScale Outdoors Podcast (2020). <https://traffic.megaphone.fm/WPCM9523998672.mp3>

Artemis. Artemis Podcast (2022). <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/artemis/id1492115822>

Cast and Camo Podcast. (2024). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpFVTOAbrFw>

Print

Speilman, T. Show Us Your Gut Piles! Outdoor News 3 (2019).

Online

Drieslein, R. Spare gutpile? Grab a trail cam and contribute to U of M research. Outdoor News <https://www.outdoornews.com/2018/10/26/spare-gutpile-grab-a-trail-cam-and-contribute-to-u-of-m-research/> (2018).