

Yazhmin Dozal

Undergraduate Institution:

Northern Arizona University

Career Goals:

Post-graduation, Yazhmin hopes to work in conservation management in the Southwest. She would like to work closely with community-based conservation, ecological restoration, and policy. Due to previous management and leadership roles, she wants to be a leading guide for conservation through policy, research, and collaboration. One of the most important aspects of conservation is communication to the many communities that will be affected by conservation issues. Accurately communicating and educating communities on conservation issue can facilitate an environment of collaboration between the public and managers. Being able to engage policy, science, and collaboration will allow vulnerable communities of the Southwest to take on major conservation issues. Yazhmin will intern this summer with the National Forest Foundation.



Biography:

Growing up in a predominantly agricultural town in southern Arizona, Yazhmin understood the importance of management and conservation at a young age. She often would spend hot summer days playing with ladybugs, crickets, or small burrowing owls in her backyard. Her grandfather had a five-acre plot of land behind her home, and he would seasonally rent the land out for crops. Yazhmin observed the processes of growing, maintaining, and harvesting crops and the waste of resources associated with the process. Water and fertile land are difficult to maintain and acquire in the southwest, however the poor management practices demonstrated the waste of water and land in the agricultural industry.

Influenced by the need for change in many land use industries, Yazhmin decided to pursue an undergraduate degree at Northern Arizona University (NAU). After four years, she received a Bachelor of Science in environmental science with an emphasis in management, an ecology and wildlife management certificate, and a minor in biology. She was the president of the NAU chapter of the Wildlife Society, conducted undergraduate research, and served as co-chair for the Green Fund. She published her work on feeding behaviors of bark-foragers and presented for her capstone on the effects of elevation, seasonality, and precipitation on dragonfly larvae. Her co-chair position at the Green Fund allowed her to manage a group of undergraduates, present to administration at NAU, write and review proposals, and research grants. Yazhmin has had a wide range of experiences covering biology, ecology, and sustainability.

Each professional and academic experience has demonstrated to Yazhmin the importance of management and policy within ecosystems, organizations, and conservation. She has decided to continue her academic career by pursuing a master's degree in the Environmental Science and Policy program. Currently during her graduate degree, Yazhmin has remained as an active member of the Graduate Student Government as the Director of Climate Action. As the Director of Climate Action, she is responsible for advocating graduate student's interests regarding climate action to the Graduate Student Government and administration. Additionally, she was the co-president of ESPGO club for her Environmental Science and Policy degree program. Her current research covers the habitat requirements of *Culex* aquatic life stages and their possible health risks to communities in northern Arizona. Yazhmin's research addresses the need for conservation, management, and collaboration with vulnerable communities in the Southwest.