

Dusty Reed



Career Goals:

Following the completion of his graduate degree Dusty would like to work on conservation and restoration projects to support ecosystem function in the American West. Dusty strives to work at the interface of community engagement and applied conservation. He has a strong interest in connecting local communities and stakeholders to their local landscapes and engaging them in the process of conserving and restoring those landscapes. Working with land managers and nonprofits Dusty hopes to make meaningful contributions to landscape health in the west.

Biography:

Dusty grew up in the mountains of northwestern Colorado. His formative years were spent exploring the outdoors and learning about his local ecosystems. He had an interest in science and conservation from a young age and always knew that he wanted to work in the outdoors.

Dusty attended Prescott College to complete his undergraduate degree. At Prescott he earned a B.A. with a double major in Natural History and Adventure Education.

The experiential education model at Prescott allowed Dusty to learn about ecology and natural history in the field from local researchers and land managers. This fieldwork intensive curriculum solidified the importance of being engaged in on the ground conservation to him. Dusty has always had a strong interest in community engagement and education, and after graduating he worked as an environmental educator and wilderness trip leader for eight years. In this capacity he was able to teach young people about the natural world and ecology. He also had the opportunity to travel through the many varied landscapes of the west. Dusty led students into the deserts of Arizona and the arctic mountains of northern Alaska and many other locations to teach them about the importance of conservation and ecosystem function.

After nearly a decade of this work, Dusty wanted to be more directly involved in conservation. He made the transition to ecosystem monitoring work and worked in New Mexico and Wyoming completing field surveys for nonprofits and the Bureau of Land Management. Working on the rangelands and in the riparian areas of New Mexico it became clear that we needed thoughtful solutions for effective conservation in the multi-use setting of public lands. This motivated Dusty to pursue his MS in the Environmental Science and Policy program at Northern Arizona University to meet his interdisciplinary career goals and prepare Dusty to be an effective conservation leader for the modern west.