

NICHOLAS G. TAIT

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PROFILE

Geographer and writer with several years of experience combining technical skills in geospatial analysis, science communication, and biological monitoring. Creates compelling stories and data visualizations that impact natural resource management decisions and educate a wide audience on important environmental topics. Highly motivated and creative team player currently serving as GIS Specialist for AECOM. Master's Degree in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from Penn State University.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GIS Specialist II | AECOM | September 2024 – Present

- Provide daily geospatial support and coordination for federal clients
- Fulfill map requests and data requests to enhance management operations
- Use cartographic design skills to create print and digital maps for a range of audiences
- Educate clients on the importance and functionality of GIS tools to increase knowledge and efficiency
- Write daily, weekly, and yearly reports on work completed to ensure continued contract

Ecology Assistant (GIS Project Lead) | National Park Service | November 2023 – August 2024

- Led the development of invasive plant management plans for National Capital Region parks
- Used ArcGIS and Adobe products to compile data and create maps for internal process evaluations
- Supported science communication efforts to produce informational products

Science Communicator | National Park Service | November 2022 – November 2023

- Communicated natural resource projects through articles for a technical and nontechnical audience
- Created promotional conservation pages on the NPS website using a Content Management System
- Worked closely with management both within and outside NPS to identify communication goals
- Created data visualizations including maps and graphs using ArcGIS Pro to accompany written work

Forestry and GIS Research Assistant | Yale School of the Environment | October 2021 – July 2022

- Publication forthcoming: Regional variation in macro- and microclimate history affects the sensitivity of litter decomposition to temperature and moisture in eastern temperate forests (*Functional Ecology*)
- Researched information on US forest carbon from divergent sources and compiled it into reports
- Compiled forest carbon datasets from disparate sources to gain an overview of US carbon stocks
- Created custom maps and summarized statistical data of carbon cycling to be included in reports

Seasonal Forestry Assistant | Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station | May 2021 – September 2021

- Collected multivariate forestry data to provide a baseline for future change detection analysis
- Created map and brochure on native shrub garden to inform and guide farm visitors

Biological Science Technician | National Park Service | April 2019 – August 2020

- Collected field data on forest vegetation health to provide key information to park leadership
- Created informational presentations to train new employees and volunteers
- Reviewed and edited scientific reports to prepare for publication

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University | Master of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) | 2024

St. Mary's College of Maryland | Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies | 2017