TAROKATAYAMA

Tarokatayama1@gmail.com, US Citizen (Registered in selective service)
1800 Cabrillo Memorial Dr San Diego, CA 92106

Summary of Qualifications

Natural Resource Program Management

- Lead resource monitoring and protection programs at Cabrillo National Monument, from field data collection through funded action plans and program reporting
- Track record securing competitive federal and partner funding to support resource management priorities

Cross-Agency Liaison, Compliance & Supervision

- Build and sustain partnerships across federal, academic, and nonprofit organizations to coordinate research and resource-protection work
- Supervise program staff, volunteers, and interns; administer research permitting to balance scientific access with resource protection
- Stepped into acting resource management and science leadership when needed, representing the division's priorities

Data-Driven Resource Protection & Communication

- Build monitoring dashboards and geospatial tools that translate ecological data into decision support for managers
- Communicate technical findings to agency leadership, partners, and the public

Professional Experience

Biologist, GS-0401-09 | 40h/week | Full Time — Sept. 2024 – Present
National Park Service | Cabrillo National Monument, San Diego, CA 92106
Supervisor: Chris Rodriguez | Superintendent | chris_rodriguez@nps.gov
Duties:

- Lead mission-critical monitoring programs that inform public access decisions and resource protection strategies. Programs include rocky intertidal monitoring, shorebird monitoring, landbird monitoring, visitation monitoring, fog monitoring, and wildlife monitoring
- Supervise shorebird and landbird monitoring program volunteers and Scientists-in-Parks intern; provide technical guidance on data collection protocols
- Prepare and administer funding proposals and program budgets: secured over $150,000; authored the FY32 NRCM proposal for 26 acres around the Visitor Center Historic District and Old Point Loma Lighthouse; track and report on project funds for compliant, accountable use
- Serve as liaison across USGS, SDNHM, BLM, Wildland Fire Service, MPA Collective Network, and Wildcoast to coordinate cooperative research and joint resource-protection initiatives
- Conduct research permit review and compliance administration, balancing scientific access with resource protection
- Served as acting resource management and science lead when the Superintendent was unavailable, representing division priorities and coordinating resource management activities
- Developed near-real-time R Shiny and Power BI dashboards and streamlined geospatial tools (ArcGIS Pro) to support field operations and resource decision-making
- Conduct administrative program functions including PMIS, GPRA reporting, and purchasing in support of resource management operations

Science Communication Fellow | 40h/week | Full Time — June 2023- May 2024
National Park Service | Conservation Legacy
Supervisor: Lena Lee | External Energy & Minerals Specialist | Lena_Lee@nps.gov (no longer with NPS)
Duties:

- Created communication plans for federally funded projects exceeding $400,000, ensuring taxpayer accountability
- Established and led science communication ambassador group to enhance public awareness of NPS research

- Developed strategic partnerships with universities to expand public education opportunities in California's National Parks
- Translated complex scientific information into accessible formats for public audiences

Natural Resources Management Assistant | 40 h/week | Full Time May 2022- Aug. 2022
National Park Service | Cabrillo National Monument, San Diego, CA 92106
Supervisors: Dr. Linh Anh Cat | Chief of Resources Management | linhanh_cat@nps.gov
Duties:

- Designed and implemented fog monitoring system that supports visitor safety during low-visibility conditions
- Created comprehensive standard operating procedures ensuring continuity of critical monitoring programs
- Utilized GIS analysis to optimize monitoring locations, balancing scientific needs with operational efficiency
- Effectively managed federal resources by developing cost-efficient monitoring solutions within budget constraints
- Presented findings to Department of Interior leadership, demonstrating accountability and transparency

Biological Technician Volunteer | 20 h/week | Part Time April 2021- June 2021
US Fish and Wildlife Services, Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge – Kihei, HI 96753
Duties:

- Supported conservation of endangered species habitat critical to public education and visitor experiences
- Conducted surveys providing essential data for visitor information and environmental education programs
- Managed predator control program protecting public safety and enhancing visitor wildlife viewing opportunities

Assistant Supervisor of Salmon Restoration Crew | 40 h/week | Full Time Oct. 2019- Sept. 2020
Washington Conservation Corps | King Conservation District- Renton, WA 98057
Duties

- Coordinated with stakeholders to implement habitat restoration projects supporting public resources
- Supervised crew activities ensuring safe and efficient field operations

Education

Duke University, Durham, NC 27710 2023
Master of Environmental Management | Summa Cum Laude
Nicholas School of the Environment | Water Resource Management

Colby College, Waterville, ME 04901 2019
Bachelor of Arts, Major | Environmental Science, Minor | Anthropology

Skills & Certifications

- Resource Advisor, Fireline Red Card certified
- FEMA Incident Command System: IS 100, IS 200, IS 700
- NPS youth supervisor training
- Proficient in data analysis tools: R, ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, Python, Microsoft Office Suite

Publications

- Shoreline Bird Monitoring at Cabrillo National Monument: 1990-2025 Initial Report (2026)
- Park Science: Innovative System Measures Fog That Beloved Plants Need to Survive (2024)
- Vegetation Administrative History Report: Invasive Plant Management and Native Species Planting (2024)
- Standard Operating Procedure for Fog Monitoring Program at Cabrillo National Monument
- Assessing the Water Footprint of Electric Car Batteries – A Dive into the Water-Energy Nexus

Awards & Scholarships

- National Park Foundation Innovation Grant, $13,400 2026
- Virlis L. Fischer Award for Academic Achievement- Highest GPA in class 2023
- Nicholas School of the Environment Scholarship Fund, $18,000 2021-2023
- Nicholas Scholarship, $10,000 2021-2023
- Nicholas School Assistantship, $6,000 2021-2023