

# Embracing Discomfort: Equity and Inclusion in the Outdoors

03/10/2021



Sergio Avila

The book that Sergio Avila referred to and recommended during his seminar is:

Clean and White: A History of Environmental Racism in the United States, by Carl A. Zimring (NYU Press, 2016)

Biologist Sergio Avila has worked on local and regional conservation efforts along the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, as a wildlife researcher and catalyzer of bi-national conservation projects for more than 20 years. Sergio graduated from the University of Baja California with a Master's degree in Arid Lands Management (2000), and the University of Aguascalientes with a B.S. in Biology (1997). For over ten years, Avila tracked and studied borderland jaguars and ocelots in Sonora and Arizona; he studied mountain lions in Baja California, Cactus-ferruginous pygmy-owls in Sonora, and led efforts to protect Monarch butterflies' migration corridor. Avila currently works for the Sierra Club in the Outdoor Activities Team. His focus is to support staff and volunteers in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and Utah, with the mission to connect people with the natural world and with the Sierra Club, by maintaining and enhancing diversified, volunteer-run outdoor activities that support the Sierra Club's conservation mission. Sergio has lived and worked in Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui ancestral lands in Arizona since 2004 and became a U.S. Citizen in 2016. He is a member of the City of Tucson's Committee on Climate, Energy and Sustainability; a Trustee in the Progressive Workers Union; a Conservation Science Fellow with the Wilburforce Foundation, past

Board member of the Society for Conservation Biology, North America Chapter, a certified wildlife tracker with CyberTracker. Sergio enjoys trail running, gardening, bird and butterfly watching, and looking for wildlife tracks. He lives in Tucson with his wife Jenny, their three cats Lupe, Carlos, and Pancho, and Toby, the desert tortoise.

Links to learn more about Sergio Avila:

- High Country News: [Why a wildlife biologist became a social justice advocate](#)
- Desert Museum: [Northern Jaguars: Over a Decade of Field Observations in the Mexico-US Borderlands](#) by Sergio Avila
- PLOS Biology: [The jaguar and the PhD](#) by Sergio Avila-Villegas
- Human Nature: [Episode 54: A Life for Science](#) (podcast)
- National Geographic: [Wildlife Biologist: Sergio Avila](#)
- USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station: [Wildlife survey and monitoring in the Sky Island Region with an Emphasis on neotropical felids](#) by Sergio Avila-Villegas and Jessica Lamberton-Moreno
- PeerJ: [Ecology of an ocelot population at the northern edge of the species' distribution in northern Sonora, Mexico](#), by James C. Rorabaugh, Jan Schipper, Sergio Avila-Villegas, Jessica A. Lamberton-Moreno, Timothy Flood
- CBC Radio: [How a dead jaguar changed Sergio Avila's life](#)
- Sierra: [Protecting and Celebrating El Jaguar in the Borderlands](#) by Sergio Avila and Dan Millis