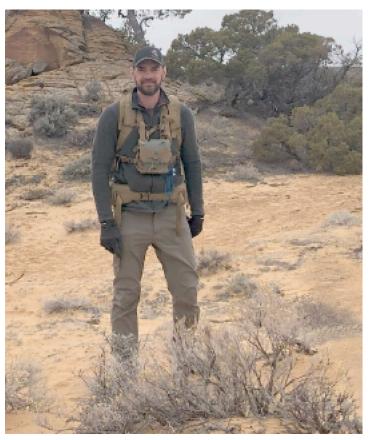# JESSE BOULERICE

Jesse has just joined the Oceanites team. He is a wildlife biologist with over a decade of experience focused on the conservation and management of species that are threatened, endangered, or otherwise of a conservation-challenged status.

Originally from Northern New York, Jesse received his B.S. in Biology from Clarkson University. He then received his M.S. in Wildlife Sciences from Auburn University, Alabama.

Jesse's career includes positions as as a wildlife biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. In those roles, he led the research and management of various mammal species of conservation concern including bats, mink, spotted skunks, fisher, marten, wolverine, prairie dogs, and black-footed ferrets. This work has taken him everywhere from the swamps and salt marshes of the southeastern US to the remote backcountry of the Rocky Mountains.

Today, Jesse works as a Research Ecologist with the Smithsonian Institution as part of their Great Plains Science Program based in Montana. He is currently working to develop a method to track and study the fine-scale movement of semi-fossorial wildlife species during time periods when they are underground.

Throughout his various roles and projects, Jesse has strived to apply advanced technology and techniques to wildlife conservation and management. He believes that applying cutting-edge technology to wildlife conservation can lead to the most efficient solutions for our current conservation challenges. He is a FAA certified drone pilot with over 200 hours of flight experience. He is currently working with colleagues at UC Santa Barbara to develop a novel technique for monitoring prairie dog populations that combines aerial imagery collected by drone and artificial intelligence (AI) to automate the detection and counting of prairie dogs and their burrows. Jesse has also pioneered a new method for detecting the endangered and elusive black-footed ferret using nighttime flights of drones equipped with thermal cameras.