

Vita

Christopher Raymond Jage was born August 28, 1970 in the City of Brotherly Love: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Christopher is the son of two loving parents, Suzanne and W. Raymond Jage. He is also fortunate to have an older (and much wiser) brother, Michael Jacobs. Christopher grew up in rural Chester Springs, Pennsylvania where his love for nature and outdoor pursuits was born. He graduated from Downingtown Senior High School in June of 1988 and promptly enrolled at The Pennsylvania State University on a talent scholarship drawn from his other passion: Music. After reevaluating the direction of his career, he transferred to the College of Agricultural Sciences where he pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resource Management (Soil Science curriculum) and a Minor in Marine Science. Upon graduating in the spring of 1993, he accepted a position with the U.S. Peace Corps in Guatemala where he served as a Natural Resources Extension Agent working and living with rural farmers in the village of El Naranjo. The successful completion of that two-year appointment led to an position at San Carlos University in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, where he was asked to develop and teach a new Soil Conservation course for the Agronomy School. Christopher returned to the United States in June of 1996 and moved to Wilmington, Delaware where he pursued a brief bohemian career working as the “jazz-guy” at a local book and music store. In April of 1997, he accepted an assistantship to study at Virginia

Tech under the tutelage of Dr. Carl Zipper; the result of which you have just read. Christopher completed his Master's Degree in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences in February 2000 and promptly pointed his Volkswagen west to work as a Wilderness Protection Assistant with the Bureau of Land Management in Yuma, Arizona.