

Vita

Alexander (“Alex”) Zendel was born in Decatur (Atlanta), Georgia, but he, his two older sisters and parents moved to Sarasota, Florida five weeks later. At the age of nine, he once again lived in the Atlanta area and graduated from Dunwoody High School in 1994. Over the next six years, Alex attended the University of North Carolina at Asheville (UNCA) and graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Studies in May 2000. During his final year at UNCA, he enrolled in an introductory GIS course that introduced him to the geographic and spatial dimensions of environmental management; the single undergraduate course the most shaped his future.

Several days after graduating from UNCA, he drove across the county to run the Middle Fork in the Salmon River in Idaho and spent the remainder of the summer in nearby Missoula, Montana. Near the end of the summer, he found an internship with the Western Slope Environmental Resource Council in Paonia, Colorado, which became his temporary home. He spent the following winter in Summit County, Colorado to live his childhood dream of being a ‘ski bum’. During the next summer, he then worked as the Road (and Roadless Area) Inventory Project Coordinator with the High County Citizens’ Alliance in Crested Butte, Colorado. He then moved to Charlottesville, Virginia to begin his position as Wildfire Mitigation GIS Specialist with the Virginia Department of Forestry. Fourteen months later, he moved, once again, to Blacksburg, Virginia to begin his graduate work in geography at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech).

Alex currently lives in Knoxville, Tennessee and works as a GIS Analyst with the Knoxville – Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission.