Katherine Soltysiak:

After many years of hard work, I am currently in my dream job as the Pygmy Rabbit Assistant Biologist for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. I have always known that working with lagomorphs is what I wanted to do in life and have spent the past 7 years working with the United States Geological Survey, National Park Service, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, and various academic institutions researching American pika, collared pika, black-tailed jackrabbit, Appalachian cottontail, snowshoe hare, and white-tailed jackrabbit.

While lagomorphs are at the heart of what I do, I have always believed it is important to be well-rounded with a variety of skills. I pursued my advanced certificate in GIS, developed amphibian monitoring techniques in Costa Rica, backpacked Iceland to sample remote hot springs, battled off leeches while tracking tree kangaroos in the Australian rainforest, and am currently learning how to operate drones.

Outside of work you can find me pursuing my newest hobby- flying! Paragliding, speed flying, and kiteboarding have quickly become my new obsession. My friends and colleagues would describe me as outgoing, patient, and enthusiastic. I recognize all the mentors who have helped me reach where I am today and want to give back to the wildlife community by offering my service to the Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society.