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Chrissy has degrees from the University of California Berkeley (B.A. Biology 1991) and the University of Missouri Columbia (PhD Ecology 1999). Her doctoral research focused on avian demography and life history evolution in a coastal California population of Song Sparrows. In 2000 she received a National Science Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship in Biological Informatics to pursue research in collaboration with Missouri Botanical Garden and the International Center for Tropical Ecology at the University of Missouri Saint Louis. Her NSF research focused on the development and use of spatially explicit models and statistics (applying Geographic Information System technology) as practical tools in coarse-grain conservation studies. She uses these approaches to test hypotheses about the distributions of rare species, conservation reserve design, and the implications of global climate change. In 2004 she joined the staff of PRBO as a Conservation Scientist.