

VITA

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Thomas Arey Cochrane, son of Thomas T. and Rosa E. Cochrane, was born in Santa Cruz, Bolivia on September 25, 1971. He attended school in many countries including Bolivia, Colombia, Seychelles, and Brazil. He graduated from high school in La Paz in 1989 and came to the U.S. to study Agricultural Engineering. In 1993 he received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering from Purdue University. He then proceeded to pursue an M.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering at Purdue University working with the USDA-ARS National Soil Erosion Research Lab. After completing his M.S. thesis entitled "Detachment and Deposition in a Simulated Rill" in 1995, he continued at Purdue to seek a Ph.D. degree focusing on GIS and watershed modeling. In the fall of 1996 he was given the opportunity to go to Brazil and work on a land resource survey of the state of Rondonia. He returned in early 1997 and completed his Ph.D. by the end of 1999. His Ph.D. research was guided by Dr. Dennis Flanagan and is presented in this dissertation.