

EMILY FAIRFAX, PhD

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ECOHYDROLOGY

BEAVERS

CLIMATE CHANGE

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Geological Sciences**, University of Colorado Boulder (2015 – 2019)
Certificate in Hydrologic Sciences
Certificate in College Teaching
NDSEG Fellow
- B.A. Physics & Chemistry** (*double major*), Carleton College (2010 – 2014)
cum laude

APPOINTMENT HISTORY

- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities**
Department of Geography, Environment, and Society
Assistant Professor of Physical Geography (2023 – present)
McKnight Land Grant Professor (2025 – present)
Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory
Affiliated Faculty (2023 – present)
- California State University Channel Islands**
Department of Environmental Science and Resource Management
Assistant Professor (2019 – 2023)
- Utah State University**
Department of Watershed Sciences
Courtesy Adjunct Assistant Professor (2021 – 2023)
- University of Colorado Boulder**
Department of Geological Sciences
Lecturer (2019)
ASSETT Fellow (2018 – 2019)
NDSEG Fellow (2015 – 2018)
- UNAVCO**
Professional Development Instructor (2019)
RESESS Graduate Fellow (2018)
- Los Alamos National Laboratory**
Systems Engineer (2014 – 2015)



EMILY FAIRFAX, PhD

RESEARCH

► Honors and Awards

Scholar of the College – College of Liberal Arts. University of Minnesota (2026)

McKnight Land Grant Professorship. University of Minnesota. (2025-2027)

G.K. Gilbert Award for Excellence in Geomorphological Research. For “*Smokey the Beaver: beaver-dammed riparian corridors stay green during wildfire throughout the western United States*”. American Association of Geographers (AAG) Geomorphology Section. (2024)

Fellow. Walton Family Foundation: Environment Program (2023-2026)

Faculty Excellence in Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities Award. College of Arts and Sciences. California State University Channel Islands. (2021)

► Peer Reviewed Publications

* = undergraduate student supervised

** = graduate student supervised

*** = postdoc or research professional supervised

† = co-first authorship. Both authors contributed equally

Published

14. ***Moravek, J., **Connaughton, A., **Kirksey, K., **Miller, J., **Fairfax, E.** (2025) Using beaver capacity models – the importance of local knowledge. *Restoration Ecology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/rec.70135>
13. ***Wan, L., **Fairfax, E.**, Maher, K. (2025) Factors influencing surface water accumulations in beaver pond complexes across the Western United States. *Nature Communications Earth and Environment*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-02573-x>
12. ***Moravek, J., Brashares, J., Giroto, M., Spivak, R., Kerr, A., Molod, A., Freier, S., Johnson, R., **Fairfax, E.**, Ruhl, A. (2025, *in press*) Maximizing the potential benefits of beaver restoration for fire resilience and water storage. *Ecological Applications*.
11. ***Baker, N., Larsen, D., **Fairfax, E.**, Muscott, A., Shapiro, B., Crump, S. (2025, *in press*). Ancient sedimentary DNA shows more than 5000 years of continuous beaver occupancy in Grand Teton National Park. *Ecosphere*.
10. Hayley, G., Al-Chokhachy, R., Wheaton, J., MacFarlane, W., Jordan, C., Murphy, B., Shahverdian, S., Bennet, S., Bouwes, N., Fryirs, K., Brierley, G., Ciotti, D., Bailey, P., Bartlet, K., Belletti, B., Bizzi, S., Brasington, J., Camp, R., **Fairfax, E.**, Jimenez, J., Maestas, J., Mandish, T., McNamara, A., Miller, S., Marizot, B., Perle, M., Piegay, H., Reid, H., Reynolds, L., Saunders, W., Shallcross, A., Skidmore, P., Smith, R., Terrier, B., Wathen, G., Weber, N. (2025, *in press*) Principles of Riverscape Health. *WIREs Water*.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/wat2.70028>
9. **Fairfax, E.**, Westbrook, C. The Ecology and Evolution of Beavers: Ecosystem Engineers that



- Ameliorate Climate Change. (2024). Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-ecolsys-102722-122317>
8. **Fairfax, E.**, Whipple, A., Wheaton, J., *Osorio, B., *Miller, J. *Kirksey, K., *Perez, N., Jordan, C.E. (2024) [Beaver-Modified Riverscapes Withstand Megafires in the Rocky Mountain Region, USA](#). In Biogeomorphic Responses to Wildfire in Fluvial Ecosystems. Special Papers – Geological Society of America. [https://doi.org/10.1130/2024.2562\(07\)](https://doi.org/10.1130/2024.2562(07))
 7. **Fairfax, E.**, Clinton, N., Zhu, E., Maiman, S., Shaikh, A., Macfarlane, W., Wheaton, J., Ackerstein, D., Corwin, E. (2023). [EEAGER: a neural network for finding beaver complexes in aerial and satellite imagery](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2022JG007196>
 6. Norman, L., Lal, R., Wohl, E., **Fairfax, E.**, Gellis, A., Pollock, M. (2022) [Natural Infrastructure in Dryland Streams Create Wetland Sinks that Mitigate Climate Risk](#). Science of the Total Environment. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.157738>
 5. Jordan, C. E. † & **Fairfax, E. †**. (2022), [Beaver: The North American Freshwater Climate Action Plan](#). WIREs Water. doi: 10.1002/wat2.1592
- French Translation: https://www.sauvonsleau.fr/upload/docs/application/pdf/2022-11/castor_un_plan_daction_pour_le_climat_en_eau_douce_-_traduction.pdf
 4. **Fairfax, E.** & *Whittle, A. (2020), [Smokey the Beaver: beaver-dammed riparian corridors stay green during wildfire throughout the western USA](#). Ecological Applications. doi:10.1002/eap.2225
 3. **Fairfax, E.** & Brown, M. R. M. (2019), [Increasing Inclusion and Accessibility in Undergraduate Geology Labs Through Scenario-Based TA Training](#). Journal of Geoscience Education. DOI: 10.1080/10899995.2019.1602463
 2. **Fairfax, E.** & Small, E. E. (2018), [Using remote sensing to assess the impact of beaver damming on riparian evapotranspiration in an arid landscape](#). Ecohydrology 11(7). doi:10.1002/eco.1993
 1. **Fairfax, E.** & Steinzig M. (2016) [A Summary of Failures Caused by Residual Stresses](#). Residual Stress, Thermomechanics & Infrared Imaging, Hybrid Techniques and Inverse Problems, Volume 9. Conference Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Mechanics Series. doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-21765-9_26

► Published Data

3. *Denton, M., ***Moravek, J.A., **Fairfax, E.** 2025. Predicted Beaver Dam Building Capacity in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metro Area ver 1. Environmental Data Initiative. <https://doi.org/10.6073/pasta/f2847593d36f7ffbd21661c2ec89f265>
2. **Fairfax, E.** & *Whittle, A. (2020): Google Earth Path Files of Beaver Dams and Ponds in Laramie Ranger District, Medicine Bow Routt National Forest, WY. PANGAEA, <https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.913923>
1. **Fairfax, E.** & *Whittle, A. (2019): Normalized Differenced Vegetation Index (NDVI) of riparian areas with and without beaver damming within wildfire perimeters in Western US. PANGAEA, <https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.900944>



► **Invited Speaking**

152. University of Colorado Boulder. Hydrologic Sciences Symposium Speaker. Beavers and Climate Resilience. April 2026.
151. University of Minnesota Duluth. Department of Earth Sciences Seminar Speaker. Beavers in Minnesota. April 2026
150. Iowa Women in Natural Resources Annual Meeting. Beavers and BDAs in Iowa. February 2026.
149. Penn State Extension. Beavers and Beaver-Based Restoration. February 2026
148. Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Stream Restoration Symposium. Beaver Mimicry for Stream Restoration. February 2026
147. Best Practices for Pollinators Summit. Keystone Species, Restoration Ecology and Climate Change. February 2026
146. River Restoration Northwest Annual Symposium. Keynote Speaker. Beavers. February 2026
145. Oregon Natural Desert Association. Beavers in the Arid West. January 2026
144. Audubon Canyon Ranch – California Naturalist Program. Beavers in California. January 2026.
143. Wisconsin Committee on Beaver Management Plan Revisions. Beavers in Wisconsin. January 2026
142. Thompsen Park Community Education Program. Beavers in Minnesota. November 2025
141. Trout Unlimited North Brook. Beavers and Beaver Mimicry in the Driftless Region. November 2025.
140. Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative. Beavers in the Harney Basin. October 2025
139. MN GIS/LIS Consortium Fall Conference. Keynote Speaker. Beavers. October 2025
138. Beasts and Brews - Wisconsin. Beavers. October 2025
137. Isle a la Cache Museum. Smokey the Beaver. September 2025
136. Okanagan Nation Alliance. siwłk^w (Water) Webinar. Beaver Mimicry. July 2025
135. Humane Society of Huron Valley. Beaver Coexistence in Washtenaw County. July 2025
134. Harney Watershed Council. Beavers in the Harney Basin. July 2025
133. Journey Museum and Black Hills Flyfishers. Beavers: Architects of Resilience. June 2025
132. The Beaver Institute. Beaver Science Speaker Series. Beavers as Architects of Climate Resilience. June 2025
131. Midwest Beaver Summit. Keynote Speaker. Beavers in the Midwest. June 2025.
130. Yampa Basin Rendezvous. Plenary Keynote Speaker. Beavers in Colorado: drought and wildfire resilience. May 2025.
129. University of California Climate Stewards Program. Beavers and Fire in California. May 2025
128. Peel Compton Foundation – Osage Park After Dark. Keynote Speaker. April 2025
127. Michigan State University Earth and Environmental Sciences Distinguished Speaker Series. Beavers as Architects of Climate Resilient Natural Infrastructure. April 2025
126. Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Beavers, BDAs, and Megafires. April 2025
125. BTAA / Big Ten GIS Conference 2025. Keynote Speaker. Beavers and Remote Sensing. April 2025



124. Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Grand River Dam Authority, Cherokee Nation, and the Illinois River Watershed Partnership. Beaver and BDA Restoration Talk and Workshop. April 2025
123. Washington County Water Consortium. Beavers in Minnesota – science, benefits, and conflict management. April 2025.
122. Practical Water Wisdom / Itasca Waters. Beaver dams, ponds, and effects. April 2025
121. Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations. Beavers in Minnesota – science, benefits, and conflict management. March 2025
120. Cuyahoga Valley National Park 50th Anniversary. Keynote Speaker. Beavers in the Valley. March 2025
119. (*postponed due to federal funding cuts*) FEMA. Chew on this – beavers as hazard mitigation. Early 2025.
118. UMN EEB Seminar Series. Beavers as Climate Change Mitigators. February 2025
117. (*postponed due to federal funding cuts*) U.S. Forest Service SCIENCEx Webinar. Riparian Fuels Treatment Panelist. Winter 2024/25
116. AGU Conservation Ecohydrology Session. Invited Speaker. Beavers and Fire. December 2024
115. UMN Spatial Forum. Lightning Talk on Beavers. November 2024
114. Land Trust Alliance. Beavers as Natural Allies. November 2024.
113. BeaverCON. *Keynote Speaker*. How, Where, and Why Beaver Wetlands Are Fire Resistant. October 2024
112. Peninsula Open Space Trust. Beavers in California. October 2024.
111. New Mexico State Legislature. Testimony on Beavers and Wildfire. September 2024.
110. US Fish and Wildlife Service. Nature-Based Solutions in Arid Lands. September 2024.
109. Midwest Beaver Summit. Beavers: Droughts and Floods. August 2024
108. US EPA. Climate-Fire-Water Webinar Series. Beavers. July 2024.
107. Healthy Headwaters Alliance. Beavers and Wildfire Resilience. June 2024.
106. Université de Lyon. Réseau Rivières Webinar. June 2024.
105. Creature Conserve. Beavers and Climate Change. June 2024.
104. USFWS Process Based Restoration Training. Beavers and Fire. June 2024.
103. Siseebakwet Lakeshore Association Spring Meeting. Beavers in MN. June 2024.
102. Boulder Watershed Collective. Guided field tour to Lefthand Canyon beaver complex. May 2024
101. Beaver Girl Book Launch. Webinar with Cassie Promo-Steele. May 2024.
100. University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Earth Science Seminar Series. May 2024.
99. Minnesota Native Plant Society. Beavers in Minnesota. April 2024
98. International Association for Geomorphology. Geomorphology Day Webinar. March 2024.
97. US Fish and Wildlife Service Southwest Region. Webinar on Beavers in Dryland Environments. March 2024.
96. Carleton College Biology Colloquium. Beavers in the Great Lakes Region. March 2024
95. Accepted Gopher Days at the University of Minnesota. March 2024.



94. UC Climate Stewards Program. Beavers and Climate Resilience in California. March 2024
93. Partnership for River Restoration in the Upper Midwest Annual Meeting Post-Meeting Workshop. Beavers 101. February 2024.
92. Partnership for River Restoration and Science in the Upper Midwest Annual Symposium Keynote Speaker. Beavers in the Upper Midwest. February 2024
91. University of Georgia and Walton Family Foundation. Nature-based Solutions and Natural Infrastructure Network Design Workshop. January 2024.
90. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Science and Fisheries Annual Meeting. Beavers in Minnesota. November 2023
89. Luckiamute Watershed Council. Sips and Science – Smokey the Beaver. November 2023
88. Northern Arizona University. Forestry Colloquium. November 2023
87. Climatebase. Beavers as a nature-based solution. November 2023
86. Women Advancing River Research. Beavers: The Original Log Transformation. October 2023
85. Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club Meeting. Beavers in the Sierras. October 2023.
84. Front Range Community College. Science and Society Guest Speaker. September 2023
83. North Santiam Watershed Council. Beavers and Climate Change. September 2023.
82. Midwest Beaver Summit. Beavers and Climate Change. September 2023.
81. Workshop on Science for Trout Stream Restoration in the Great Lakes Region. Beavers. August 2023.
80. Alberta Beaver Symposium. Keynote Speaker. July 2023
79. Water Advisory Committee of Orange County. Beavers. July 2023
78. Carleton College Beaver Festival. The Science of Beavers and Coexistence. May 2023.
77. Oregon State Senate. Expert Testimony on HB 3464. May 2023.
76. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Beavers and LT-PBR for Fish. April 2023.
75. Oregon State Legislature. Expert Testimony on HB 3464. March 2023
74. NOAA Riverscape Restoration Workshop. MC and Panel Facilitator. March 2023.
73. Front Range Community College. Science and Society Guest Speaker. March 2023
72. HalfMoon Education. Beavers and Ecological Restoration: Issues and Solutions. March 2023
71. Society of Ecological Restoration Western Canada Journal Club. Q&A about Beavers and NIDS. February 2023.
70. River Restoration Northwest Annual Symposium. Plenary Speaker. February 2023 (*live session missed due to illness, recorded slides provided*)
69. Scott River Watershed Informational Forum. Beavers and Fire. February 2023.
68. Castoro Cellars Winery / SLO Beaver Brigade. February 2023
67. Santa Barbara Permaculture Network. Beavers in California. January 2023
66. Audubon Canyon Ranch Conservation Science Intensive. Panelist on Careers in Conservation. January 2023.
65. NPR Science Friday Book Club. Beavers and Beaverland. January 2023
64. California Academy of Sciences and The Nature Conservancy Convening on Grasslands. December 2022. Beavers Restoring Lost Connections. December 2022.



63. Camarillo Rotary Club. Beavers in Ventura County. November 2022
62. Pacific Trust Forest Council. Beavers in California. November 2022
61. Deloitte. Green Teams Webinar: Western United States. November 2022.
60. California State University Chico. Biology Seminar Series. October 2022
59. Georgetown University. Environmental Metrology and Policy Program Colloquium Series. October 2022
58. California Governor's Office of Planning and Research California Fifth Climate Change Assessment Roundtable. Panelist on Natural Waters and Biodiversity. October 2022
57. UC Climate Stewards Program: Oakland Zoo. Beavers and Wildfire. September 2022
56. Climatebase Fellowship Program Seminar. Nature-based solutions. September 2022
55. Wildnote Lunch and Learn. All about beavers. September 2022.
54. Ventura River Watershed Meeting. Beavers in Coastal California. August 2022.
53. Audubon Canyon Ranch Conservation Science Intensive. Panelist on Careers in Conservation. June 2022.
52. Estes Valley Watershed Coalition. Beavers and Wildfire. June 2022.
51. California Water Quality Monitoring Council. Beavers, fire, and water quality. May 2022.
50. Sierra Club and Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. Beavers and Wildfire. May 2022
49. Audubon Canyon Ranch. Science Webinar Series. Beavers and Climate Change. April 2022
48. Front Range Community College. Careers in Geosciences Panel. April 2022.
47. Utah State University. Watershed Sciences Colloquium. April 2022.
46. Université du Québec à Montréal. Ecology and Evolution Seminar Series. April 2022.
45. Northern Illinois University. Geoscience Department Colloquium. March 2022.
44. Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership Remote Sensing Forum. Beavers and Remotely Sensed Ecohydrology. March 2022.
43. UC ANR Climate Steward Program for the Oakland Zoo. Beavers in California. March 2022
42. California Native Plant Society Mt. Lassen Chapter. Beavers and Fire. March 2022.
41. American Fisheries Society Colorado and Wyoming Chapter Annual Meeting. Plenary Presentation. Beavers and Megafire in the Rocky Mountains. March 2022.
40. Central Coast Bioneers. Guided Nature Walk and Talk About Beavers. February 2022.
39. Boulder County Audubon Society. [Q&A Beavers and Climate Change](#). February 2022
38. Scott Watershed Informational Forum. Beavers and Wildfire. February 2022.
37. Oklahoma Wildlife Society Annual Meeting. Smokey the Beaver. February 2022.
36. River Restoration Northwest. Remote Sensing of Beaver Dams Workshop. February 2022
35. The Nature Conservancy South Dakota. Annual Fundraiser Keynote. December 2021.
34. Santa Barbara Permaculture Network. Dinner Talk at The Farmer and The Cook. November 2021.
33. Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society. Beavers in California and the Santa Ynez River. November 2021.
32. ASWM Members Webinar. [Megafires Be Dammed](#). October 2021
31. [Colorado Beaver Summit. Beavers and wildfire](#). October 2021



30. WestFAST (Western States Federal Agency Support Team) Webinar. [Wildfires and Droughts be Dammed](#). October 2021.
29. The Nature Conservancy South Dakota Annual Banquet. October 2021. *Declined due to State of California travel restrictions per AB 1887.*
28. Audubon Canyon Ranch Conservation Science Intensive. Panelist on Careers in Conservation. July 21st, 2021
27. Audubon Canyon Ranch Conservation Science Intensive. Panelist on Careers in Conservation. July 14th, 2021
26. [World Environment Day Webinar. Beavers and Climate Change](#). June 3rd, 2021
25. Earth Day Beaver Trivia and Q&A Panelist. Beaver Believers. April 24th, 2021.
24. [Natural Areas Association. Beaver and Fire Symposium](#). April 22nd, 2021.
23. [California Beaver Summit. Keynote Speaker. Beavers and wildfire](#). April 9th, 2021.
22. Los Padres Forest Watch and Beaver Believers Q&A Panel. April 8th, 2021
21. Fire Ecology and Management. Point Blue Conservation Science. April 8th, 2021
20. Beavers and Fire for the Rogue Riverkeepers. March 30th, 2021.
19. Expert Testimony on HB2844 for the Oregon State Legislature. March 18th, 2021.
18. [California Fire Science Webinar Series. Smokey the Beaver](#). March 16th, 2021
17. [ASWM Beaver Restoration Webinar. Beaver Restoration for Climate Resiliency](#). March 10th, 2021
16. University of Colorado Boulder Gamification Community of Practice Presentation – Gamifying Your Classroom. March 2nd, 2021
15. Beavers and Climate Change Panelist and Presenter for San Luis Obispo Beaver Brigade and Beaver Believers. February 21st, 2021
14. Beavers and Climate Change Panelist and Presenter for Scott River Watershed and Beaver Believers. January 21st, 2021
13. [California Naturalist Program Seminar \(CONES\) – Smokey the Beaver](#). January 19th, 2021
12. [NOAA Monster Seminar Jam – Smokey the Beaver](#). January 14th, 2021
11. [Oxford Real Farming Conference: Farming and Climate Change – How Beavers Can Help](#). January 10th, 2021
10. [University of Nevada Reno Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Colloquium](#). Nov 12th, 2020
9. [CSUCI Mathematics Colloquium](#). October 26th, 2020
8. Beavers and Climate Change Panelist for Friday Harbor Film Festival and Beaver Believers. October 21st, 2020
7. [Bark! Smokey the Beaver](#). October 15th, 2020
6. Beavers and Climate Change Panelist for Beaver Coalition and Beaver Believers. October 5th, 2020
5. [AGU H3S and CUAHSI Panel on Scientific Communication at Conferences](#). June 26th, 2020
4. [Beavers without Borders](#). BeaverCON 2020. March 3rd, 2020
3. [Smokey the Beaver: Can Beaver Dams Help Protect Riparian Vegetation During Wildfire?](#) Webinar for the U.S. Forest Service. January 28th, 2020
2. [Dam Big Data](#). CSUCI Computer Science Colloquium. October 15th, 2019.



1. [Beavers: the other professional engineer](#). AEG (Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists) Mile High Chapter Meeting. May 14th, 2019.

► **Conference Presentations**

* = *undergraduate student supervised*

** = *graduate student supervised*

*** = *postdoc supervised*

45. *Kirksey, K., **Fairfax, E.** How public opinion of beaver reintroduction varies in different countries. 10th International Beaver Symposium, Inverness, Scotland. Sept 2025
44. *Connaughton, A., **Fairfax, E.** Beavers and phenology: A case study in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska. 10th International Beaver Symposium, Inverness, Scotland. Sept 2025
43. **Alves, M., Young, J., **Fairfax, E.** Evaluating Beaver Translocation Methods and Measures of Success in North America and Europe. 10th International Beaver Symposium, Inverness, Scotland. Sept 2025
42. *Denton, M., **Fairfax, E.** Incorporating human-beaver conflict potential into urban beaver restoration models. 10th International Beaver Symposium, Inverness, Scotland. Sept 2025
41. ***Moravek, J., Cook, V., **Alves, M., Wilson, K., **Fairfax, E.** Dams for defense: Beavers as a nature based solution to adapt to more severe drought and wildfire. 10th International Beaver Symposium, Inverness, Scotland. Sept 2025
40. VanBuren, C., **Fairfax, E.** Mapping beaver contributions to ecosystem services priorities across sectors and scales. 10th International Beaver Symposium, Inverness, Scotland. Sept 2025
39. **Fairfax, E.**, **Arlt, A., *Denton, M., **Miller, J., ***Moravek, J. Beaver-driven wildfire resistance: generalizability, mechanisms, and predictability. 10th International Beaver Symposium, Inverness, Scotland. Sept 2025
38. **Fairfax, E.**, Funk, A., Marrs, A. Beaver mimicry for drought and fire resilience: accelerating implementation through science and policy collaboration. 10th International Beaver Symposium, Inverness, Scotland. Sept 2025
37. ***Baker, N., **Fairfax, E.**, Larsen, D. Reconstructing Sierra Nevada paleoecosystems in the context of beaver engineering with sedimentary ancient DNA. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2024. December 2024.
36. ***Wan, L., **Fairfax, E.**, Fang, K., Maher, K. Surface Water Area in Beaver Complex Wetlands Across the American West: Mapping, Clustering, and Influencing Factors. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2024. December 2024.
35. **Fairfax, E.**, Riesgraf, A., ***Baker, N., Andruss, M. Where, When, and Why Beaver Wetlands Resist Burning During Wildfires. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2024. December 2024. *Invited Speaker.*
34. *Denton, M., **Fairfax, E.**, Wildfire Resilience Around Beaver Dam Analogs. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2024. December 2024.



33. **Fairfax, E.**, Beavers and Wildfire. BeaverCON 2024. *Keynote Speaker*. October 2024
32. **Fairfax, E.** Beavers as Wildfire Mitigation. National Conference on Ecological Restoration. Albuquerque. April 2024.
31. **Fairfax, E.**, *Osorio, B., *Miller, J., *Kirksey, K. Fire Resistance of Beaver Wetlands Across Latitudes and Landscapes. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2023. December 2023.
30. Baker, N., **Fairfax, E.**, Larsen, D., Shapiro, B., Crump, S.E. Ancient Sedimentary DNA Shows 5000 Years of Continuous Beaver Occupancy in Grand Teton National Park. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2023.
29. *Osorio, B., *Miller, J., *Hirahara, A., *Kirksey, K., *Connaughton, A., *Perez, N., *Segnitz, J., **Fairfax, E.** 30-Years of Beaver Damming on Lake Superior's Islands: A Remote Sensing Perspective. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2023.
28. Clinton, N., **Fairfax, E.**, Zhu, E., Maiman, S., Shaikh, A., Ackerstein, D., Corwin, E. (2023) Application of EEAGER to Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) Conservation in California. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2023.
27. **Fairfax, E.** OOS 13-3 - Smokey the beaver: how beaver ecosystem engineering mitigates wildfire. (2023) Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting.
26. **Fairfax, E.**, Whipple, A., Jordan, C.E., Wheaton, J., *Osorio, B., *Miller, J. *Kirksey, K., *Perez, N. (2023) Beaver-Modified Riverscapes Resist Burning During Megafires. Invited Presentation for River Restoration Northwest Annual Symposium 2023.
25. Rongstad, B., Gold, A., Newman, N., Ratcliffe, C., **Fairfax, E.**, Schaecher, A., Boyd, K., Okochi, C., Littrell, M., Maryboy, N., Begay, D., Valdez, S., Stein, J. (2022) Using Storytelling to Connect Diverse Communities with Science Topics Through Informal Education Experiences. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2022.
24. **Fairfax, E.**, Clinton, N., Zhu, E., Maiman, S., Shaikh, A., Ackerstein, D., Corwin, E. (2022) EEAGER: a model that detects beaver-created wetlands in satellite and aerial imagery. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2022.
23. *Osorio, B., *Miller, J., **Fairfax, E.** (2022), Dam the Wildfires: Beaver Response to the 2020 Colorado Megafires. SACNAS Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico.
22. **Fairfax, E.**, Clinton, N., Zhu, E., Maiman, S., Shaikh, A., Ackerstein, D., Corwin, E. EEAGER: a neural network model for finding beaver complexes in satellite and aerial imagery. GSA Annual Fall Meeting 2022.
21. Zhu, E., Clinton, N., **Fairfax, E.**, Maiman, S., Shaikh, A., Ackerstein, D., & Corwin, E. (2022), EEAGER: a neural network for finding beaver complexes in imagery. BeaverCON 2022.
20. Jordan, C. E. *f*, & **Fairfax, E** *f*. (2022), Beaver: The Freshwater Climate Action Plan. BeaverCON 2022.
19. **Fairfax, E.**, *Osorio, B., *Kirksey, K., and *Miller, J. (2022) Megafires Be Dammed: can beaver-created fire refugia persist through extreme wildfire events?, BeaverCON 2022.
18. **Fairfax, E.** Beaver-Supported Drought and Fire Resilience. Arkansas River Basin Water Forum 2022.
17. **Fairfax, E.**, *Osorio, B., and *Kirksey, K. (*upcoming, postponed until 2022 due to COVID-19*) Ribbons of Refugia: beavers create and maintain highly-connected, fire-resistant patches of riparian habitat. Invited Presentation for AFS Annual Meeting. *Session postponed for*



COVID-19.

16. Quinlan, K., Brown, M.R.M., **Fairfax, E.** Groundwater dynamics and contributions within the Ashley-Brush Basin, Utah. GSA Annual Fall Meeting 2021
15. *Kirksey, K., and **Fairfax, E.** One year of beaver modifications to a large sandy river: a case study in central California, GSA Annual Fall Meeting 2021
14. **Fairfax, E.**, *Osorio, B., and *Kirksey, K. (2021) Megafires Be Dammed: can beaver-created fire refugia persist through extreme wildfire events?, Invited Presentation for GSA Annual Fall Meeting 2021
13. Jordan, C.E., Bouwes, N., Wheaton, J., and **Fairfax, E.** (2021) Partnering with Beavers in Low-Tech Process-Based Watershed Restoration. National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration 2021.
12. **Fairfax, E.** and *Whittle, A. (2019) Smokey the Beaver: Can Beaver Dams Help Protect Riparian Vegetation During Wildfire?, AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2019
11. **Fairfax, E.** (2019) How Can You Talk About Your Research and Tell a Story Without Saying Any Words? With a Little Bit of Patience and Whole Lot of Felt: Lessons Learned from Creating and Sharing an Elevator Video, AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2019
10. **Fairfax, E.** (2018) Roll a Water Check! Using Games to Teach Hydrology. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2019
9. **Fairfax, E.** and E. E. Small. (2018) Over, Under, or Through: How the leakiness of a beaver dam influences groundwater-surface water interactions, AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2018
8. **Fairfax, E.** and M. R. M. Brown. (2018), Increasing Inclusion and Accessibility in Undergraduate Geology Labs Through Scenario-Based TA Training, AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2018
7. M. R. M. Brown. and **Fairfax, E.** (2018), Assessing Accessibility Climate: What under- graduates think about accessibility in the geoscience classroom, AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2018
6. *Whittle, A., & **Fairfax, E.** (2018), Beaver Ponds are a Major Contributor to Surface Water Storage in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Laramie Ranger District, WY, USA. AGU Annual Fall Meeting 2018
5. **Fairfax, E.** (2018), Roll a Water Check! Using Game-Based Learning to Correct Common Alternate Conceptions of the Hydrologic Cycle. Center for STEM Education 10th Annual Symposium, Boulder, CO.
4. **Fairfax, E.** and E. E. Small. (2017), The Role of Beaver Ponds in Maintaining Vegetation Health During Droughts: A Case Study at Susie Creek and Maggie Creek, NV, GSA Fall Meeting Abstracts 2017
3. **Fairfax, E.** and E. E. Small. (2016), Hyporheic Exchange in a Stream Dammed by Beaver: A 1D Simulation with Spatial Energy Head Gradients and Heterogeneous Hydraulic Conductivity as Drivers, AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts 2016
2. **Fairfax, E.** and E. E. Small. (2016), 1D Simulation of Hyporheic Exchange in a Stream Dammed by Beaver, GSA Fall Meeting Abstracts
1. **Fairfax, E.**, et al. (2015), PBO H2O: Monitoring the Terrestrial Water Cycle with reflected GPS signals recorded by the Plate Boundary Observatory Network, AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts.



► Grant Funding

External Funds (Total: \$3,554,931; \$3,507,931 PI/co-I, \$47,000 senior personnel)

Fairfax, E. (*selected, contract pending signatures*) Leveraging Aquatic Restoration to Address Wildfire Risk and Impacts on BLM Lands in the Colorado River Basin. (2026-2028). Foundation for America's Public Lands. (\$645,150). *Primary Investigator*

Fairfax, E. Developing a Multi-Decadal Geospatial Archive of Wild Rice Distribution and Abundance in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. (2025-2028). Wisconsin DNR in collaboration with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. (\$233,323). *Primary Investigator*

Fairfax, E. Understanding interactions between beavers and Mnomen (wild rice). (2025-2028). Wisconsin DNR in collaboration with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. (\$196,327). *Primary Investigator*

Fairfax, E. Designing Interactive Hands-On Beaver Restoration Training. (2025-2027). Walton Family Foundation. (\$71,000). *Primary Investigator*

Fairfax, E. Developing a Hydraulic Model for Beaver Dams and Dam Analogs. (2025-2027). Walton Family Foundation. (\$129,000). *Primary Investigator*

Fairfax, E. Building the BeaverLab: an outdoor artificial stream facility for understanding beaver and beaver mimicry impacts. (2025-2026) Broad Reach Fund (\$150,000). *Primary Investigator*

Piovia-Scott, J. and **Fairfax, E.** Collaborative Research: PACSP - Testing beaver-based resilience for freshwater habitat and species across precipitation gradients. (2026-2031) National Science Foundation. (*recommended*, \$251,000 to Fairfax of \$1,500,000). *Co-Investigator*

Fortson, L, Trouille, L., **Fairfax, E.**, Lintott, C., Noe, R., Blickhan, S., Salvatore, M., Guralnick, R., Denslow, M. NSF-CSSI: Collaborative Research: Frameworks: Building the Twenty-first Century Citizen Science Framework to Enable Scientific Discovery Across Disciplines. (2025-2029). National Science Foundation. (\$447,595 to Fairfax of \$2,140,536). *Co-Investigator*

Fairfax, E. and Burkman, P., Inventory of beaver and other semi-aquatic furbearers to inform harvest management decisions at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. (2025-2028). National Park Service Inventory Program. (\$47,133 to Fairfax of \$75,214 proposal). *Primary Investigator*

Kendig, A. Expanding the Application of Minnesota's Wetland Monitoring Data. (2025-2028). MN Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). (\$47,000 to UMN of \$318,000 proposal). *Senior Personnel*

Fairfax, E. and Riesgraf, A. Feasibility Assessment of Minimally Invasive Tracking Tags on Beavers. (2024) Christine Stevens Wildlife Award via Animal Welfare Institute. (\$15,000) *Primary Investigator*

Fairfax, E., Piovia-Scott, J., Clinton, S., Burnett, A., Kennedy, J. (2024-2028). NSF DISES RCN: A North American Beaver Knowledge Network. National Science Foundation: DISES. (\$500,000). *Primary Investigator*

Fairfax, E. Beavers and Wildfire Knowledge Sharing Initiative. (2024-2025) Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. (\$86,000). *Primary Investigator*

Fairfax, E. Remote sensing assessment of beaver dam analogs in Alberta, Canada. (2024-2026) Mistakiis Institute. (\$23,000). *Primary Investigator*



- Fairfax, E.** (2024-2025). Remote Sensing Estimate of Beaver Occupancy, Habitat Quality, Water Storage & Carbon Storage in the Harney Basin, Oregon. Harney County Watershed Council. (\$63,230) *Primary Investigator*
- Fairfax, E.** (2024-2026). Beaver habitat selection in California. The Nature Conservancy. (\$142,673) *Primary Investigator*
- Fairfax, E.** (2023-2024). Developing a Beaver-Based Restoration Plan for Drought and Wildfire Resilience in the Scott River Watershed, California. Resources Legacy Fund via Scott River Watershed Council. (\$35,000). *Primary Investigator*
- Fairfax, E.** (2022). Net Primary Productivity and Carbon Sequestration at Doty Ravine LT-PBR Site. USFWS and American River Conservancy. (\$9000). *Research Contract, Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.,** and Wheaton, J. (2022-2025) River Restoration and Beaver-Based Restoration Effects on Fire Behavior, Water Storage, and Carbon Storage in CA and OR. US Fish and Wildlife Service (via Utah State University) (\$115,000). *Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.** (2022) Beavers, Climate Change, and Ecosystem Resilience. Special Project Renewal. Biodiversity First! (\$27,000. *Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.** (2022-2024) Project Mayfield. Assessment of Beaver Relocation Policies and Practices. Ackerstein Sustainability. (\$100,000). *Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.** (2021-2022) Project Beverly: Beavers - A Nature-Based Solution for Climate Change. Ackerstein Sustainability. (\$18,000). *Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.** (2020-2021) Beavers, Climate Change, and Ecosystem Resilience. Special Project. Biodiversity First! (\$18,725). *Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.** (2020). Remote Sensing to Identify Beaver Dams in Priority Areas in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. World Wildlife Fund Canada Special Project. (\$5000). *Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.** (2018) AWG (Association for Women Geoscientists) Takken Student Research Presentation Travel Award (\$500). *Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.** (2018) RESESS (Research Experience in Solid Earth Science for Students) Geological Sciences Graduate Fellowship (\$7000). *Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.** (2017) GSA (Geological Society of America) Rocky Mountain Section Travel Grant (\$75). *Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.** (2017) GSA (Geological Society of America) Graduate Student Research Grant, Geological Society of America: Drought Buffering in Riparian Areas Along Susie Creek, Nevada: The Role of Beaver Damming (\$2100). *Primary Investigator.*
- Fairfax, E.** (2015-2018) National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG), Army Research Office, Air Force Office of Research, and ASEE (\$169,500).
- Internal Funds (\$279,974)**
- Fairfax, E.** (2025-2027) Hubachek Wilderness Research Fund. Disturbance and Resilience in the Northwoods: mapping relationships between beavers, wildfires, and wilderness. (\$80,000)
- Fairfax, E.** (2025) Faculty Early Innovator Fund: Beaver Innovations. UMN Technology Commercialization Office. (\$10,000)



- Fairfax, E.** (2024) Field Course Funds. Department of Geography, Environment, and Society. (\$5000)
- Fairfax, E.** (2024) Field Course Funds. Department of Geography, Environment, and Society. (\$2000)
- Fairfax, E.** and Patsch, K. (2022). Data without Borders: Establishing a Collaborative Cross-Border Environmental Drone and GIS Research Program in Todos Santos, Baja California Sur, Mexico. IRA Funding for Overseas Program. (\$42,319)
- Fairfax, E.** (2022-2023). Modeling How River Restoration Can Influence Wildfire Spread Behavior. (\$6675)
- Fairfax, E.** (2021-2022) Undergraduate Research Funding via HSI-SMART: STEM Model for Research and Teaching Undergraduate-Intervention Program (*PI David Gillespie, \$2.5M award*) (\$26,200)
- Fairfax, E.** (2021). Acoustics as a Proxy for River Restoration Status. CSUCI Center for Integrative Studies. (\$1524)
- Fairfax, E.** (2021). Climate Change Be Dammed – the role of beavers in a warming arctic. CSUCI Summer SURF Student Research Program. (\$14,000)
- Fairfax, E.** (2020-2021) Undergraduate Research Funding via HSI-SMART: STEM Model for Research and Teaching Undergraduate-intervention Program (*PI David Gillespie, \$2.5M award*) (\$26,200)
- Fairfax, E.** (2020) Teaching and Learning Innovations Fellowship. CSUCI. (\$19,292)
- Fairfax, E.** (2020) Your B.S. isn't BS: ESRM Speaker Series (ESRM 496). CSUCI Instructionally Related Activities Fund. (\$6,800)
- Fairfax, E.** and Patsch, K. (2019). Data without Borders: Establishing a Collaborative Cross-Border Environmental Drone and GIS Research Program in Todos Santos, Baja California Sur, Mexico. CSUCI Faculty Research & Development Mini-grant. 2019-2020. (\$7,979)
- Blackwood, E., **Fairfax, E.**, and Patsch, K. (2019). In a Repository Far, Far Away: Using virtual reality to bridge the gap between Santa Rosa Island data and the people who care about it. CSUCI Faculty Research & Development Mini-grant. 2019-2020. (\$7,990)
- Fairfax, E.** and Patsch, K. (2019). I See CI: Virtual Reality Exploration of Santa Rosa Island. CSUCI Summer SURF Student Research Program. (\$14,000)
- Fairfax, E.** (2018) Undergraduate Research Mentorship Grant, CU Boulder Department of Geological Sciences: ET Across Beaver-Dammed Landscapes. (\$1000)
- Fairfax, E.** (2018) United Government of Graduate Students Travel Grant (\$500)
- Fairfax, E.** (2018) Conference Travel Grant, CU Boulder Department of Geological Sciences (\$800)
- Fairfax, E.** (2018) Penny E. Patterson Graduate Research Grant, CU Boulder Department of Geological Sciences: Using the Leakiness of Beaver Dams to Assess their Function in a Landscape (\$1095)
- Fairfax, E.** (2018) Undergraduate Research Mentorship Grant, CU Boulder Department of Geological Sciences: Surface Water Storage in Beaver Ponds (\$1000)
- Fairfax, E.** (2017) University of Colorado Graduate School Travel Grant (\$300)
- Fairfax, E.** (2017) Birkeland Graduate Scholarship Research Grant, CU Boulder Department of Geological Sciences: Using Remote Sensing to Evaluate the Role of Beaver Ponds in



Buffering the Effects of Drought on Nearby Riparian Vegetation (\$1500)

Fairfax, E. (2016) Conference Travel Grant, CU Boulder Department of Geological Sciences (\$800)

Fairfax, E. (2016) Spetzler Research Grant, CU Boulder Department of Geological Sciences: Beaver Dam Shallow Subsurface Hydrology (\$2000)

Fairfax, E. (2016) Undergraduate Research Mentorship Grant, CU Boulder Department of Geological Sciences: Beaver Dam Catalogue (\$1000)

► Student Mentorship and Advising

Postdocs Supervised

Nevé Baker. University of Minnesota. Primary Advisor. Co-Advised with Ellen Wohl (CSU)

- NSF EAR Postdoctoral Fellow. Reconstructing the role of beavers in driving Holocene landscape evolution and resilience in the Sierra Nevada range, California. (*March 2024 – present*)

Jessie Moravek. University of Minnesota in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy.

- Mapping and Modeling Beaver Influences on Water, Ecosystems, and Climate Change Now and in the Future in California, USA. (*August 2024 - present*)

Luwen Wan. Stanford. Secondary Advisor. Co-Advised with Kate Maher.

- Surface Water Area in Beaver Complex Wetlands Across the American West: Mapping, Clustering, and Influencing Factors (*August 2023 - present*)

Graduate Students Supervised

Micki Garrity. University of Minnesota. Dept. of Natural Resources Science and Management, and American Indian Studies. Co-Advised with Michael Dockry

- **Ph.D.** – Beaver and Wild Rice Relationships (2023 – present)

Alyssa Connaughton. University of Minnesota. Dept. of Geography, Environment, and Society.

- **PhD.** Beavers and Disturbance (*thesis title TBD*) (2024 – present)

Keitreice Kirksey. University of Minnesota. Dept. of Geography, Environment, and Society.

- **PhD.** Beavers and People (*thesis title TBD*) (2024 – present)

Joe Miller. University of Minnesota. Dept. of Geography, Environment, and Society.

- **M.S.** Geospatial Influences of Beavers (*thesis title TBD*) (2024 – present)

Molly Alves. Utah State University Dept of Wildland Resources. Co-Advised with Julie Young

- **M.S.** - Best Practices in Beaver Relocation: a synthesis of literature, case studies, and practitioner knowledge (2022 – present)

Graduate Thesis Committee Member / Thesis Reviewer

Matthew Land. University of Minnesota. Dept. of Applied Economics.

- **M.S.** – The Effect of Teaching Experience on Student Performance: Evidence from Elementary and Middle School Students in Wisconsin (2024). *Successfully defended*



Bridgette Timm. University of Minnesota. Dept. of Conservation Science.

- **PhD** – Beaver occupancy and use of the Twin Cities (2024 – present)

Sandy Wong. University of Minnesota. Dept. of Geography, Environment, and Society.

- **M.S.** - *Quercus douglasii* resilience to extreme drought across complex topography in California (2023 – 2025). *Successfully defended*

Jessica Sikora. Northern Illinois University. Dept. of Biological Sciences

- **M.S.** - Spatial Analysis of Beaver Impoundment Impacts on Riverscapes in Restored Tallgrass Prairie. (2022 – 2023). *Successfully defended*

Devin Baumer. Utah State University. Dept. of Watershed Sciences

- **M.S.** – Impacts of Beaver on Bridge Creek, OR (2022 – present)

Jeff Anderson. Utah State University. Dept. of Watershed Sciences

- **PhD** – Can LT-PBR restoration by the people, for the people, overcome limiting factors to sockeye food-fishery declines? (2022 – present)

Facundo Smufer. University of Quebec Montreal. Dept. of Biology.

- **M.S.** – Carbon balance of boreal beaver ponds. (2022 – 2023). *Successfully defended*

Other Graduate Student Mentorship

Rachel Torres. University of California Santa Barbara. Dept. of Environmental Science and Management.

- Future Faculty Partner Program. NSF HSI AGEP Program. (2022 – 2023)

Undergraduate Research Assistants Supervised

Beaver Dam Hydrology

Nichole Jacquez. <i>UMN</i>	(2025-present)
Elena Voda. <i>UMN</i>	(2025-present)
Ari Lawrence. <i>UMN</i>	(2025-present)
Jonah Docter-Loeb. <i>Carleton College</i> .	(2024)
Martha Denton. <i>UMN</i> .	(2024-present)
Michelle Andruss. <i>UMN</i>	(2024)
Ashley Johnson. <i>UMN</i> .	(2023-2024)
Anika Tripathi. <i>UMN</i> .	(2023-2024)
Grace Renk. <i>UMN</i> .	(2023-2024)
Sara Gobana. <i>UMN</i> .	(2023-2024)
Lucy Lipscomb. <i>UMN</i> .	(2023)
Andrew Hirahara. <i>CSUCI</i> .	(2023-2024)
Jessie Segnitz. <i>UCLA</i> .	(2022-2023)
Connor Murphy. <i>Sonoma State</i> .	(2022)
Joe Miller. <i>CSUCI</i> .	(2021-2024)
Viviana Celeya. <i>CSUCI</i> .	(2020-2022)
Natalie Perez. <i>CSUCI</i> .	(2020-2022)
Rhianna Torres. <i>CSUCI</i>	(2020-2022)
Brandon Osorio. <i>CSUCI</i> .	(2020-2023)
Adrian Castro. <i>CSUCI</i> .	(2021-2022)



EMILY FAIRFAX, PhD

Cooper Lienhart. <i>Cal Poly.</i>	(2020-2022)
Keitreice Kirksey. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2020-2022)
Ramie Klocko. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2020-2021)
Jocelyn Adao. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2020-2021)
Sizzinette Hernandez. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2020-2021)
Kyle Ball. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2019-2020)
Jaquie Lazeau. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2019-2020)
Andrew Whittle. <i>CU Boulder.</i>	(2017-2019)
Sean Will. <i>CU Boulder.</i>	(2018)
Alexis Ahlert. <i>CU Boulder.</i>	(2017)
Danya Abelhameid	(2017)
Sage Basiri. <i>CU Boulder.</i>	(2017)
Connor Jansen. <i>CU Boulder.</i>	(2017)
Claire Czarnecki. <i>CU Boulder.</i>	(2016)

Virtual Reality and Field Accessibility

Emily Orsborn. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2020)
April Hoberg. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2020)
Alyssa Connaughton. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2019-2020)
Jenny Shirhall. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2019-2020)
Jen Bays. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2019-2020)

Data Visualization

Jenny Shirhall. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2019)
Nikollette Dussault-Martin. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2019)
Alyssa Connaughton. <i>CSUCI.</i>	(2019)

REU / CUREs Program Involvement

UMN UROP Mentor	(2024 – present)
UMN CLA Dean’s First-Year Research And Creative Scholars Program.	(2023 – 2024)
CSU Channel Islands Summer SURF	(2020, 2021)
Research Experiences in Solid Earth Sciences for Students (RESESS)	(2017, 2018, 2019)
Geo-Launch Pad	(2018, 2019)
Research Experiences for Community College Students (RECCS)	(2018)

TEACHING

► Teaching Experience

University of Minnesota

- GEOG 3431: Plant and Animal Geography
- GEOG 3811 / 3900 / 5900: Environmental Data Analysis
- GEOG 3900: Data Visualization
- GEOG 8280: Biogeography Seminar

River Restoration Northwest Short Course

The Big Picture: using free, publicly available remote sensing tools to monitor changes in



riparian areas over space and time. Instructor Spring 2023.

Partnering with Beaver: Part 2. Co-Instructor. Fall 2023

Portland State University and River Restoration Northwest

Partnering with Beaver: Part 1 (*part of Professional Certificate in River Restoration*); Co-Instructor. Fall 2021.

California State University Channel Islands

ESRM 100: Introduction to Environmental Science and Resource Management

ESRM 203: Environmental Statistics (including programming in R)

ESRM 303: Data Visualization and Climate Communication

ESRM 328: Introduction to GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

ESRM 331: Geomorphology and Hydrology

ESRM 400: Analytics Studio

ESRM 463: Water Resources Management

ESRM 496: Speaker Series

University of Colorado Boulder

GEOL 1010: Introduction to Geological Sciences

GEOL 2001: Planet Earth (Teaching Assistant)

GEOL 4241: Geomorphology (Teaching Assistant)

UNAVCO RESESS and GeoLaunchPad Internships

Research Skill Development

Professional Communication Skills

Field and Off-Campus Programs

- 3-Day River Restoration Northwest Field Short Course in Washington, USA. Partnering with Beaver Field Course. (2025)
- 3-Day Field Trip to the University of Minnesota Cloquet Forestry Center. For GEOG 3900/5900 Environmental Data Analysis and GEOG 8280: Biogeography Seminar (2024)
- 1-Day Field Trip to Beaver + Wildfire Case Study Sites for Federal Agency Partners. Sponsored by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. (2024)
- 3-Day Field Trip to the University of Minnesota Cloquet Forestry Center. For GEOG 3431: Plant and Animal Geography (2024)
- 2-Week Study Abroad Program in Todos Santos, Baja California Sur, Mexico. UNIV 392: Data Without Borders. Partnership with Colorado State University. (2023)
- 3-Day Field Short Course in Oregon/Washington, USA. Partnering with Beaver Field Course (*part of Professional Certificate in River Restoration*). (2023)
- 3-Day Field Trip to Santa Rosa Island, CA, USA. For ESRM 328: Introduction to GIS. (2019)



► Technical Workshop Lead or Co-Lead

Community Surface Dynamics Modeling System (CSDMS) Annual Meeting. Using Machine Learning for Landscape Feature Detection: Beaver Dams and Beyond! (*upcoming*, May 2026)

River Restoration Northwest Annual Symposium. Using Stop-Motion to Share Your Work. (February 2026)

Salmonid Restoration Federation Annual Meeting. Remote Sensing for River Restoration Session Co-Organizer. (April 2025)

University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Grand River Dam Authority, and the Illinois River Watershed Partnership. Beaver and BDA How-To Field Workshop. (April 2025)

Partnership for River Restoration and Science in the Upper Midwest. Beavers and Beaver Management. (February 2024)

Salmonid Restoration Federation Annual Meeting. Remote Sensing for River Restoration Session Co-Organizer. (April 2023)

California Process Based Restoration (CalPBR) Network. Remote Sensing Workshop. Co-Lead. (April 2023)

River Restoration Northwest Symposium. Remote Sensing of Beaver Complexes. (Feb 2023)

NOAA BWET: Using iNaturalist to Teach About Ecohydrology – a workshop on Santa Cruz Island for Oxnard School District K12 educators. (May 2022)

CSUCI Plot-A-Thon. Using R to Analyze and Visualize Data. (Feb 2022)

River Restoration Northwest Symposium. Remote Sensing of Beaver Complexes. (Feb 2022)

BLM Gunnison, CO Field Office and EcoMetrics. Identifying and Monitoring Riparian Corridors with Remote Sensing for Targeted Beaver-Based Restoration and Fire Resilience. (Dec 2021)

Methow Beaver Project. Monitoring Riparian Condition Around Beaver Complexes and BDAs Using Remote Sensing. (Sept 2021)

CSUCI Plot-A-Thon. Using R to Analyze and Visualize Data. (March 2021)

► Professional Development Participation

Full Courses

T.L.C.: Teaching for Learning Continuity. CSU Channel Islands. (2021)

URGE (Unlearning Racism in Geoscience) CU Boulder Pod. (2021)

THRIVE Online Educator Training. CSU Channel Islands. (2020)

Equity in STEM for All Genders. CIRTL. (2018)

Addressing Implicit Bias in STEM. CIRTL. (2018)

Practicing Scientific Teaching. CU Boulder. (2018)

Evidence-Based Teaching. CIRTL. (2018)

Teaching and Learning in Geoscience. CU Boulder. (2017)

Pedagogy in Environmental Science. CU Boulder. (2017)

Workshops and Short Courses

60+ hours focused primarily on equity, accessibility, and technology in higher education



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

► Organization Advising and Working Relationships

[The Beaver Trust](#): Scientific Advisory Board Member. (2020 – 2023)

[The Beaver Coalition](#): Science and Technical Information Committee (STIC)

- Member (2020 – 2022)
- Chair (2022 – 2023)

[SLO Beaver Brigade](#): Partner Scientist. (2020 – present)

[Biodiversity First!](#): Project Scientist. (2020 – 2023)

[California Process-Based Restoration Network](#)

- Research & Monitoring Lead (2022 – 2023))
- Member (2022 – present)

[The Beaver Institute](#)

- National Beaver Working Group: Research & Monitoring Group Member (2022 – present)
- BeaverCON 2024 Field Trip Planning Committee (2023 – present)
- Board Member – Scientific Advisor (2024 – present)

[California Department of Fish and Wildlife Beaver Restoration Program](#):

- Technical Advisory Group Member: (2023 – present)

► Public Outreach Presentations

[Guided Beaver Nature Walks](#). Atascadero, CA.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| › Three walks on June 27, 2020. | › One walk on March 26, 2021 |
| › One walk on Aug 2, 2020. | › One walk on July 25, 2021 |
| › Two walks on October 23, 2020 | › One walk on October 1, 2021 |
| › One walk on February 26, 2021 | › One walk on February 25, 2022 |

Virtual Presentation for 4H Hiking Club New Jersey. May 2020

[Public research talk for CSUCI Library Lecture Series at Camarillo Public Library](#). Smokey the Beaver: Can Beavers Prevent Wildfires? Scheduled March 2020, cancelled due to COVID-19

[Public research talk for CSUCI Library Lecture Series at Ojai Public Library](#). Smokey the Beaver: Can Beavers Prevent Wildfires? October 2019

[Lens on Climate Change](#) Mentor and Interviewee. 2018, 2019

► Creative Pieces

[Finding a Home](#). Digital Art. 87 Beavers Project. (2020)

[What do beavers have to do with wildfire?](#) Stop-Motion Animation. (2019)

[#HaikuYourResearch](#). Poetry. (2018)

► Outreach Workshop Lead



Make Your Own Stop-Motion Animation! Workshop Creator and Facilitator for We Are Water / CIRES Education and Outreach (2021, 2022)

► **Research Inclusion In Museum Displays and Art Galleries**

Research in High Desert Museum, Bend OR. Exhibit: [Dam it! Beavers and Us](#). Jan 30th – October 3rd, 2021

Research in Mt. Shasta Sission Museum. Exhibit: Water – Shasta’s Liquid Gold. 2021-2023

Research in Art Gallery by Suzanne Husky for Frieze Los Angeles 2022. Exhibit: Dam Beaverly Hills! Feb 17th – 20th, 2022

MEDIA COVERAGE

► **Feature Film Involvement**

[Hoppers](#) (2026) - Disney / Pixar. Science Expert Consultant (2021 – 2026)

- Scientific Presentations to Staff on Beaver Ecology to Pixar Staff (2021 – 2025)
- Scientific Feedback to Directors on Early Versions of Film (2022 – 2025)
- Art Team 1-Week Field Trip to Colorado and Wyoming Research Sites (2022)
- Beaver Trivia Facilitator at Holiday Party (2023)
- Early Access Press Days Scientific Presentations at Pixar Campus (2026)
- Global Press Junket Scientific Presentations in Los Angeles (2026)
- Hoppers Global Premiere and Red Carpet Press Interviews (2026)
- Character Dr. Samantha E. Fairfax named in homage to my work
- “Emily Fairfax, PhD” listed in film credits under “Science and Area Experts”

► **Video, Documentary, and Television Media Coverage**

XX. (in production) PBS. Resolve to Solve. TBD.

42. Disney23. [How do the beavers in Hoppers stack up against their IRL counterparts?](#) (2026)

41. KARE11. Sunday Morning News. [Beavers and Hoppers](#). (2026)

40. Minnesota Public Radio. [U of M professor breaks down beaver myths, shares experience consulting for Pixar's 'Hoppers'](#). (2026)

39. The Jason Show. [Helping Disney understand beavers](#). (2026)

38. Hollywood First Look. [Is it a beaver?! Interview with Dr. Emily Fairfax, PhD](#). (2026)

37. Rolling Out. [Get to know Disney Pixar’s Hoppers Cast with Us!](#) (2026)

36. The Upcoming. [Emily Fairfax Interview at Hoppers World Premiere](#). (2026)

35. Hollywood First Look. [Interview with Dr. Emily Fairfax, PhD](#). (2026)

34. PBS Newshour. [Tipping Point - The Mighty Mississippi](#). (2025)

33. Google. [EEAGER](#). (2025)

32. PBS. Newshour. [Why engineers are turning to beavers for insights into managing water resources](#). (2025)

31. NBC & Affiliate Stations. [Coverage of BeaverCON 2024](#). (2024)

30. PBS This American Land. [Smith Island, The Benefits of Beavers, Mississippi](#) (2024)

29. NBC. [Beavers and AI](#) (aired on 214 stations nationwide). (2024)

28. PBS. [Dynamic Planet: Fire](#). (2024)



27. LA Times Today. [Yes, beavers can help stop wildfires. And more places in California are embracing them.](#) (2024)
26. CBS Sacramento. [A look at beaver's important role in California's wildfire resistance.](#) (2024)
25. Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. [Eager Beavers.](#) (2023)
24. Great Lakes Now. [Beavers in the Great Lakes Ecosystem.](#) (2023)
23. Global News Canada. [Wildlife advocacy group urging B.C. to stop beaver trapping related to wildfire mitigation.](#) (2023)
22. CBS Sunday Morning. [Beavers and Beaverland.](#) (2023)
21. ABC7 News. ['Nature's Fighter' Baby beaver spotted in Palo Alto excites experts.](#) (2023)
20. MTM News Missoula. [A Wilder View: Smokey the Beaver? Meet nature's firefighters.](#) (2023)
19. NTR Wetenschap / Focus Science. [Probleembeavers.](#) (2023)
18. Idaho News 6 / KIVI TV. [The fight against wildfire has an unsung hero: the beaver](#) (2023)
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33. Science Vs. Podcast. [I'll Be Dammed: Beavers Fighting Wildfire](#) (2023)
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31. For The Love of Weather Podcast. [Dr. Emily Fairfax on Nature's Rockstars – the Beavers](#). (2023)
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276. WFLA-TV (NBC)	Bloom
275. KORE Radio	Mister K and Company
274. KMGH-TV (ABC)	KMGH
273. KTXL-TV (FOX)	Morning Show
272. WCNC-TV (NBC)	WCNC Digital
271. KOGO Radio	Morning Show
270. KTBC-TV (FOX)	Good Day Austin
269. WAVY-TV (NBC)	Hampton Roads Show
268. WTKR-TV (CBS)	Coast Live
267. WRGC Radio	WRGC News
266. KOKH-TV (FOX)	Living Oklahoma
265. WALA-TV (FOX)	Studio 10
264. WHNT-TV (CBS)	Day to Day
263. WCUB Radio	WCUB News
262. WFIN Radio	Good Mornings
261. KNWA-TV (NBC)	Good Day NWA
260. KTAL-TV (NBC)	Loving Living Local
259. KETK-TV (NBC/FOX)	East Texas Living
258. WTVM-TV (CBS)	Dee Armstrong Show
257. WQRF-TV (FOX)	Good Day Stateline
256. KFYZ-TV (NBC/FOX)	KFYZ+News Desk
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34. Popular Science. [Beavers might be making the arctic melt even faster.](#) (2020)
33. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC): Rockies Dispatch. [The Humble Beaver: troublemaker or climate superhero?](#) (2020)
32. University of California Cooperative Extension Forestry. [From being an engineer to researching nature's engineers.](#) (2020)
31. The Confluence. [From being an engineer to researching nature's engineers.](#) (2020)
30. Medium. [God Dam: Why Rivers Need Beavers.](#) (2020)
29. Climate Ready Missoula. [Ecosystems and Wildfire.](#) (2020)
28. Global Weather and Climate Center. [Relationship between beavers and wildfire.](#) (2020)
27. San Francisco Estuary Magazine. [Beaver dams may offer wildfire protection to western watersheds, in addition to providing better-known benefits such as groundwater recharge, wetland and habitat creation, and riparian restoration.](#) 2020
26. Landscape Architecture Magazine. [Smokey the Beaver.](#) (2020)
25. Clark Fork Coalition. [Beaver Habitat Surveys in Western Montana.](#) (2020)
24. Eos. [Finding Wildfire's Fingerprint in the Atmosphere.](#) (2020)
23. NASA Landsat Science News. [Smokey the Beaver? Beaver Dams and Wildfire.](#) (2019)
22. Eos. [Are beavers nature's "little firefighters?"](#). (2019)
21. Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine. [Instructors improve accessibility of geology.](#) (2019)
20. Ojai Valley News. [Wildfire? Drought? Leave it to Beavers.](#) (2019)
19. USGS and NPS. [Fire History of the Jemez Mountains.](#) (2019)
18. Mountain West News. [Scientists turn to video, art, graphics to convey data.](#) (2019)
17. Yale Climate Connections. [Four scientists make creativity a key to communicating their research.](#) (2019)
16. The Singing Wilderness. [What do beavers have to do with wildfire?](#) (2019)
15. The Coloradan Magazine. [Emily Fairfax wants you to appreciate beavers.](#) (2019)
14. The Verge. ['Dam good' video shows how beavers could fight fires.](#) (2019)
13. Edge Effects Magazine. [How a beaver became a twitter star.](#) (2019)
12. Cottage Life Magazine. [PhD student's creative video shows how beavers help prevent fires.](#) (2019)
11. The Kids Should See This. [Beaver dams and wildfire, a stop motion demonstration.](#) (2019)
10. Lake Superior Magazine. [Smokey the Beaver?](#) (2019)
9. ClimateCocks.com. [What do beavers have to do with wildfire?](#) (2019)
8. cnBeta.com. [A cute video showing how beavers fight wildfires raises attention on twitter.](#) (2019)
7. LangweileDich.net. [Stopmotion zeigt positive Nebeneffekte von Biber-Dämmen.](#) (2019)



6. LetemSvětém Applem. [Twitter válčuje naučné stop-motion video. Mrkněte na něj i v.](#) (2019)
5. Beavers and Brush. Beavers: [California's Missing Keystone to Mitigate Wildfire Risk.](#) (2019)
4. CU Arts and Sciences Magazine. [CU Boulder's geoscientists, ranked world's best, show-case rock-it science.](#) (2019)
3. Eos. [Can you express your science in 17 syllables?](#) (2018)
2. CU Boulder Today: [Drones, beaver dams help community college students get involved in research.](#) (2018)
1. Earth Magazine. [Beavers preserve wetlands in water-stressed areas.](#) (2017)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

► **Campus Leadership**

California State University Channel Islands: Justice and Equity With an Environmental Lens (JEWEL) Student Club Faculty Advisor. (2020-2022)

► **Committee Membership**

University of Minnesota Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory:

- Spring Student Awards Committee (2024)

University of Minnesota Department of Geography, Environment, and Society:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. (2023-2024)
- Undergraduate Education Policy Committee. (2023-2024)
- PFPF Postdoc to Tenure Track Biogeography Search Committee (2023-2024)
- CLA Assembly Representative (2024 – present)
- Merit Committee (2024 – 2025)
- Graduate Education Policy Committee (2024-present)
- Admissions Committee (2025 – present)

California State University Channel Islands:

- Faculty Search Committee: Librarian. (2021)
- Curriculum Committee. (2019-2023)
- Faculty Search Committee: ESRM (2022-2023)

California Beaver Summit Planning Committee. (2021)

University of Colorado Boulder: Hydrologic Sciences Committee Member. (2018-2019)

University of Colorado Boulder Dept of Geology: Colloquium Committee Member. (2016-2019)

► **One-Time Events (Workshops, Panels, Session Organizer, etc.)**

University of Minnesota Opening Convocation 2026. Faculty Speaker. (*upcoming, 2026*)

Jeopardy! Question Reviewer. (2026)

Future Accepted Gopher Days Speaker for CLA – three days. UMN. (2026)

CLA Alumni Awards Booth. UMN. (2025)

Accepted Gopher Days Speaker. UMN. (2024)



- President Cunningham Inauguration Table. UMN. (2024)
- Heritage Society Dinner Presenter. UMN. (2024)
- Oral Session Co-Organizer. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting (2023)
- NOAA Riverscape Restoration Workshop MC. (2023)
- Media and Outreach Training Workshop for the National Beaver Working Group (2022)
- AGU Outstanding Student Presentation Award Judge (2019, 2023, 2024)
- Building Educational Computer Games – Faculty Workshop: Creator/Facilitator (2019)
- Gamifying Your Class - Faculty Workshop: Workshop Creator and Facilitator. (2019)
- Accessibility & Inclusion Training for Teaching Assistants, Organizer/Facilitator. (2018, 2017)
- Panelist. Professional & Educational Developers Learning Community. CU Boulder (2018)
- Advisory Board Graduate Student Poster Session Organizer (2018)
- Geological Society of American Annual Fall Meeting Student Volunteer (2017)

► **Peer Reviewer**

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|---|--|
| Alberta Conservation Association | Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Monographs |
| Biodiversity and Conservation | Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources |
| Conservation Science and Practice | MITAC |
| Ecography | Natural Resources Forum |
| Ecohydrology | NSERC |
| Ecological Indicators | NSF Environmental Sustainability Division |
| Ecological Restoration | NSF Hydrologic Sciences Division |
| Ecology and Evolution | NSF Water, Landscape, and Critical Zone Processes |
| Ecosphere | Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation |
| Environmental Research Letters | Restoration Ecology |
| Global Change Biology | River Research and Applications |
| GSA Special Papers | Scientific Reports |
| Hydrologic Processes | Southwestern Naturalist |
| Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences | Wetlands |
| Journal of Geoscience Education Research | |
| Journal of the American Water Resources Association | |

► **Professional Society Membership**

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| American Geophysical Union | (2015 – present) |
| American Association of Geographers | (2023 – present) |
| Geological Society of America | (2015 – present) |
| Ecological Society of America | (2020 – present) |
| The International Association for Geoscience Diversity | (2016 – present) |
| National Association for Geoscience Teachers | (2016 – present) |
| Association for Women Geoscientists | (2016 – 2024) |



EMILY FAIRFAX, PhD

American Fisheries Society
Salmonid Restoration Federation
SACNAS

(2021 – 2023)
(2022 – present)
(2023 – present)