

CHHAYA M. WERNER

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EDUCATION

University of California Davis Present

PhD Candidate in Population Biology

Major Professors: Truman Young and Susan Harrison

Princeton University June 2014

B.A. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, *magna cum laude*

Senior Thesis: Early succession in plant communities: regrowth and invasion in the drained Elwha River reservoirs

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Contingency effects, especially of weather and climate, on plant community dynamics, particularly in the context of regeneration after disturbances. The importance of these contingencies for restoration and management.

PUBLICATIONS

Werner, CM. Spatial and temporal contingency in rapid primary succession after dam removal on the Elwha River, Washington. *Northwest Science*, in review.

Young, TP, KL Stuble, JA Balachowski, ME Lulow, **CM Werner**, and K Wolf. 2017. Experimental approaches to addressing climate change challenges in prairie restoration. *Grasslands* special issue: Climate change and grasslands. 27(2) pp 10-15.

Young, TP, KL Stuble, JA Balachowski, and **CM Werner**. 2017. Using priority effects to manipulate competitive relationships in restoration. *Restoration Ecology*.

Werner, CM, KJ Vaughn, KL Stuble, K Wolf, and TP Young. 2016. Persistent asymmetrical priority effects in a California grassland restoration experiment. *Ecological Applications* 26(6) pp 1624-1632.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Ecological Society of America 102nd Annual Meeting, Portland, OR. August 9, 2017. **Poster:** *Post-fire recruitment of two conifer species under manipulated drought and shrub competition conditions*

Northwest Science Association 88th Annual Meeting, Ashland OR. May 31, 2017 **Invited Talk:** *Post-fire climate as a driver of forest community regeneration*

Northwest Science Association 88th Annual Meeting, Ashland OR. May 30, 2017. **Poster:** *Spatial and temporal contingency in rapid primary succession following removal of the Elwha River dams*

Center for Population Biology seminar series, University of California Davis. November 22, 2016. **Talk:** *Plant community responses to post-fire drought*

Natural Areas Conference 43rd Annual Meeting, Davis CA. October 18-21, 2016. **Student and Volunteer Committee Chair.**

Natural Areas Conference 43rd Annual Meeting, Davis CA. October 19, 2016. **Talk:** *Post-fire climate as a driver of forest community regeneration*

Princeton Environmental Institute's Discovery Day. Princeton, NJ. May 2014. **Poster:** *Restoration, regrowth, and invasion in the drained Elwha River reservoirs*

HONORS AND AWARDS

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program \$138,000	2016 - Present
UC Davis Plant Sciences departmental graduate student research fellowship \$80,000	2014 - Present
Henry A. Jastro graduate research scholarship \$2000	2017
University of California ISEECI graduate student research fellowship \$11,500	2016
University of California Natural Reserve System research grant \$1200	2016
Henry A. Jastro graduate research scholarship \$1750	2016
Henry A. Jastro graduate research scholarship \$1600	2015
Ben A. Madson scholarship \$1000	2015
Leslie Kilman Johnson senior thesis award	2014

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Plant Communities of California Spring Quarters 2016 and 2017
Teaching Assistant Davis, CA

- Assisted in coordinating and teaching the field course of the class, an in-situ approach to botany and ecology in California communities.
- In 2017, co-led the class with another graduate student while the instructor was on sabbatical. Wrote and delivered field lectures, planned itineraries, developed research-based homework assignments, and wrote and graded exams.
- Guest lectured for the lecture section of the class.

Research Mentoring 2016 - 2017
Fieldwork Coordinator Davis, CA

- Supervised and mentored nine undergraduate research assistants on fieldwork, including multiple students who worked 30 or 60 hours for official internship credit.

Principles of Ecology and Evolution Winter Quarter 2016
Teaching Assistant Davis, CA

- Ran two lab sections of the UC Davis course, part of the Introduction to Biology series.

WISE Mentoring 2015-2016
Mentor Davis, CA

- Mentored a UC Davis undergraduate student in the Women in Science and Engineering program.

Princeton Tutoring 2010-2014
Tutor Princeton, NJ

- Taught middle and high school students

Princeton Bridge Year Program Sept 2009-May 2010
English and Science Teacher Varanasi, India

- Taught first to seventh grade in a rural village school. Developed curriculum, prepared all lessons, and wrote and graded exams

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Main Computer Languages	R, MATLAB, Javascript
Experience With	Java, Python, Arduino
Other Tools	LaTeX, Google Earth Engine, GIS, ImageJ