

Lucy Kerhoulas



Graduate Institution: Northern Arizona University

Location: Flagstaff, AZ

Graduate Discipline: Forest Ecophysiology

Hometown: San Rafael, CA

Research Interests:

I am interested in studying forest systems as they relate to water use and carbon storage. I received my undergraduate degree in Botany from Humboldt State University in northern California. I stayed at HSU to pursue my Master's degree investigating the physiological consequences of transporting water to the tops of the tallest redwood trees on Earth. For this research I enjoyed working in the incredible redwood canopy habitat.

For my doctoral work at Northern Arizona University I am investigating how forest density, dependent on land management decisions, affects seasonal water use and carbon storage in southwestern ponderosa pine forests. In my doctoral research I am also examining whole-tree growth patterns in old-growth ponderosa pines to create a more accurate model of carbon sequestration rates than the current estimates based exclusively on diameter at breast height measurements. Stable isotope ratio analyses and dendrochronology are the primary methods I use for this research.

About me:

My career goal is to be a university professor with equal emphases on research and teaching. Through my experience as a graduate teaching assistant for Botany and Human Anatomy and Physiology classes, I have realized that I love teaching and want it to be a substantial part of my career in addition to research. My research interests are currently geared towards improving our understanding of the dynamics between forest stand density, water use, and carbon sink strength in the West.

My hobbies include yoga, backpacking, climbing trees, and hanging out with my cats. I've taught yoga for eight years and enjoy the balance that this arena of teaching brings to my often-stressful academic life.



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