Chris Donovan

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Summary

I am a food systems data scientist with an interdisciplinary background in environmental science, economics, and behavior. My strengths include quantitative analysis and modeling, with a particular emphasis on open data and reproducible workflows. I contribute to the advancement of scientific rigor and accessibility by developing and applying methods that enable data to be shared, validated, and used across disciplines. Through this work, I help generate insights that support more sustainable, transparent, and equitable food systems.

Education

M.S., Community Development and Applied Economics 2024
University of Vermont
Burlington, Vermont

Graduate Certificate, Ecological Economics 2024
University of Vermont
Burlington, Vermont

B.S., Environmental Science 2019
Emphasis in Conservation Biology
Prescott College
Prescott, Arizona

Work Experience

Food Systems Data Scientist Sep 2024 - present
Food Systems Research Institute
University of Vermont
Burlington, Vermont

Graduate Research Assistant Apr 2022 - Aug 2024
Community Development and Applied Economics
University of Vermont
Burlington, Vermont

Rare Plant Survey Crew leader Apr 2022 - Aug 2022
Institute for Applied Ecology
Boise, Idaho

Precision Restoration Technician May 2020 - May 2022
The Nature Conservancy
Lander, Wyoming

Publications

Peer Reviewed

Christopher Donovan, Magdalena Eshleman, and Corinna Riginos. Delayed seeding and nutrient amendment seed enhancement technology: Potential to improve sagebrush establishment? *Restoration Ecology*, 32(1):e14046, 2024. ISSN 1526-100X. doi:10.1111/rec.14046.

Preprint

Christopher Donovan and Trisha Shrum. Extreme Weather Events: Perception, Pro-Environmental Behavior, and the Tools to Measure Them, January 2025. URL https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/9zadu.

Christopher Donovan, Adina Chain-Guadarrama, Alejandra Martinez-Salinas, Natalia Aristizabal, and Taylor Ricketts. Bee Diversity in Costa Rica: A National Survey of Coffee Agroecosystems, April 2025. URL https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/a4uv6_v1.

Trisha Shrum, Christopher Donovan, Sadie Bloch, Emma Cripps, and Ceclia Boyson. The REBL Score: A dynamic measure of pro-environmental behavior, August 2024. URL https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/w92se.

Conferences

Barituka Bekee, Christopher Donovan, Tessa Lawler, Andrew May, and Josiah Taylor. Operationalizing economic sustainability: A regional food systems approach [Conference presentation: Northeast Agriculture and Resource Economics Association], June 2025a.

Barituka Bekee, Christopher Donovan‘, Cari Ritzenthaler, and Josiah Taylor. Operationalizing sustainability: A regional food systems approach [Conference presentation: Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society], June 2025b.