

6

ECOSTRESS & Water Cycling

Quick Links To Sections

[Motivation : The Global Water Crisis](#)

[6.1 Accessing ECOSTRESS Water Data through AppEEARS](#)

[6.1.1 ECOSTRESS Data Product Levels](#)

[6.1.2 Today's Study Location : California's Central Valley](#)

[6.1.3 Downloading Evapotranspiration from AppEEARS](#)

[6.1.4 Downloading Evapotranspiration Component Data For The Next Tutorial](#)

[6.1.5 Data Check](#)

[6.2 Visualizing ECOSTRESS Evapotranspiration Data in QGIS](#)

[6.2.1 Adding a Google Satellite Basemap](#)

[6.2.2 Importing The NASA JPL Evapotranspiration Color ramp](#)

[6.2.3 Add in evapotranspiration layer\(s\)](#)

[6.3 Add Map Elements](#)

[Map of the Week Assignments](#)

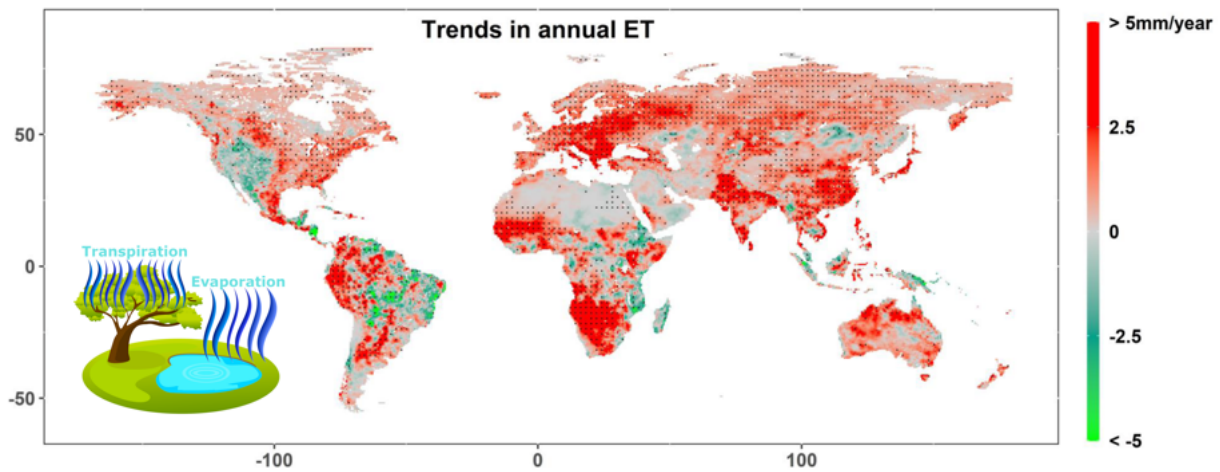
[Datafiles](#)

Objectives:

1. Distinguish between two different measures of evapotranspiration (ET_{daily} vs $ET_{instantaneous}$) provided by ECOSTRESS.
2. Compare two of the algorithms ("PT-JPL" vs "DisALEXI-JPL") used by ECOSTRESS to estimate evapotranspiration.
3. Formulate a hypothesis about the relationship between land surface temperature and evapotranspiration patterns in the Central Valley of California.
4. Create a map that illustrates land surface temperature and evapotranspiration in a way that helps evaluate your hypothesis.



Motivation For Today's Tutorial : The Global Water Crisis



So far, we have used ECOSTRESS to examine land surface temperatures. Today, we will explore a variable that [the United Nations considers to be at the center of the climate crisis: water](#).

ECOSTRESS uses land surface temperatures to estimate an important water variable: evapotranspiration (ET). ET is the sum of all processes that return water from the land surface to the atmosphere and is comprised of two components:

- Evaporation: process by which water is converted from a liquid on the earth's surface to vapor in the atmosphere.
- Transpiration: process by which water is lost from plants and returned to the atmosphere. The loss of water from plants is a consequence of the need for a permeable leaf surface that facilitates the uptake of CO_2 (e.g., through the stomata). Transpiration is a crucial component of the global terrestrial water cycle, as it returns around 60-70% of water from the ground to the atmosphere.

The figure above, which was adapted from ([Jianyu Liu et al. 2021](#)), shows that ET as a whole has been increasing for at least 80% of the Earth between 1980 and 2017 as a result of anthropogenic change.

6.1 ACCESSING ECOSTRESS WATER DATA THROUGH AppEEARS

6.1.1 ECOSTRESS Data Product Levels

ECOSTRESS has different levels of data products based on the amount of processing that is needed to create the data. Land surface temperature (LST) data is the primary observation from ECOSTRESS and forms the basis for the other products. LST is Level 2 (ECO2) after the calibration data in Level 1 (ECO1). Level 3 (ECO3) data is evapotranspiration, followed by products derived from evapotranspiration (ET), such as the evaporative stress index (ESI) and water use efficiency (WUE). Later tutorials will introduce ESI and



WUE, while we focus here on ET. This table gives an overview of the ECOSTRESS data products:

Data Product	Description	Pixel Size*	Temporal Resolution (days)
ECO1BRAD.001	Radiometric Calibration	70 x 70	Over continental United States and target areas**, every 1-7 days
ECO1BATT.001	Attitude and Ephemeris		
ECO1BMAPRAD.001	Radiometric Calibration		
ECO1BGEO.001	Geometric Calibration		
ECO2LSTE.001	Land Surface Temperature and Emissivity		
ECO2CLD.001	Cloud mask		
ECO3ETPTJPL.001	Evapotranspiration (PT-JPL model enhanced)		
ECO3ANCQA.001	Ancillary Data Quality		
ECO3ETALEXIU.001	Evapotranspiration (ALEXI model enhanced)	30 x 30***	
ECO4ESIPTJPL.001	Evaporative Stress Index derived from L3_ET_PT-JPL	70 x 70	
ECO4ESIALEXIU.001	Evaporative Stress Index derived from L3_ET_ALEXI	30 x 30***	
ECO4WUE.001	Water Use Efficiency	70 x 70	

*More accurately referred to as pixel spacing resolution (m) because of dependencies on ISS altitude, which varies.
 **For more info, please visit ECOSTRESS Gmap to see where data has been acquired
 ***70 x 70 is resampled to 30 x 30 (meters)

6.1.2 Today's Study Location : California's Central Valley

California's Central Valley

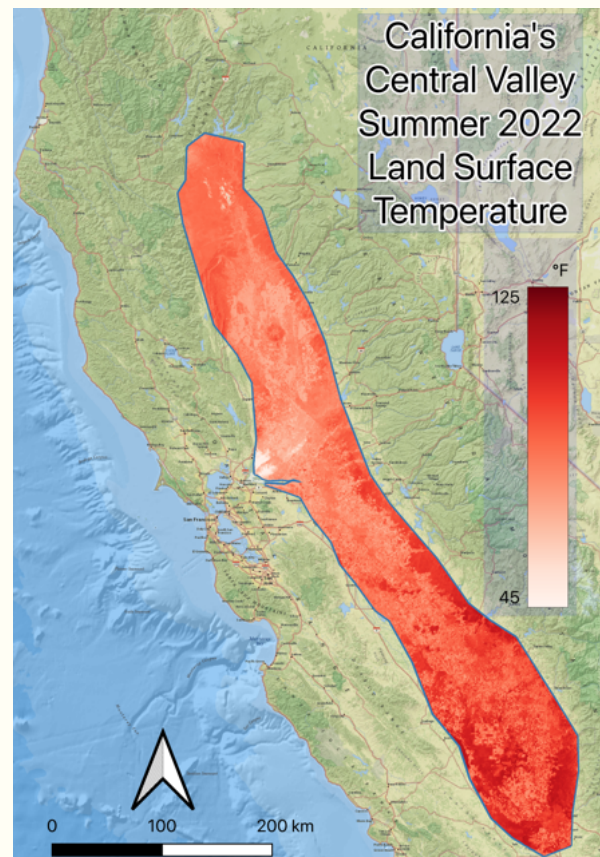


- A vast agricultural region covering 20,000 square miles drained by the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers.
- Approximately 75% of the irrigated land in California and 17% of the irrigated land in the country is in the Central Valley.
- Using less than 1% of U.S. farmland, the Central Valley produces $\frac{1}{4}$ of the food grown in the United States.
- About 20% of the Nation's groundwater demand is supplied by pumping Central Valley aquifers, making it the second-most-pumped aquifer system in the U.S.
- As a result of climate change impacts in the Central Valley, there is a **93% likelihood of diminished groundwater delivery to millions of Californian households, businesses, and farms. There is also a 95% probability of reduced drought resilience for crops.**



Hypotheses

- Before we access the data, let's make some predictions about evapotranspiration:
- Given this map to the right with land surface temperatures observed by ECOSTRESS over the summer of 2022, where would you expect evapotranspiration to be the highest?
- Will hotter land surface temperatures correlate with higher rates of transpiration?
- To find out, we are going to download evapotranspiration data from ECOSTRESS, make a map of evapotranspiration, and compare that map with this land surface temperature map.



6.1.3 Downloading Evapotranspiration from AppEEARS

The procedure for downloading ET data through the AppEEARS interface is the same as the previous tutorials on land surface temperature.

1. Since we are focusing on California's Central Valley today, begin by downloading the file [CaliforniaCentralValley.geojson](#) and saving it somewhere you can remember. We recommend a folder containing all of the files for this tutorial. Depending on your web browser you may need to right click and select *Save as*.

NOTE: A .geojson file is an alternative to the shapefiles we have used to date. QGIS can import or export either format. An advantage of GeoJSON is that it is self-contained and does not need to be zipped before importing into AppEEARS.

2. Go to <https://appeears.earthdatacloud.nasa.gov/> and login with your credentials.
3. Use the *Extract* dropdown menu to select *Area*. Next select *Start a New Request*.
4. Enter a useful name for the request you are going to submit, maybe something like "ET Central Valley Aug 6".
5. Drag and drop (or use the *click here to select the file* link) to upload the GeoJSON file *California-CentralValley.geojson*. The map should be updated with a polygon encompassing California's Central Valley.
6. Update the *Start* and *End* Date Fields for our preselected date of interest: 08/06/2022 to 08/6/2022.



7. Under *Select the layers to include in the sample* type the words “ECOSTRESS” and “Evapotranspiration.” Then scroll until you can click on *ECOSTRESS Evapotranspiration PT-JPL*. From there, scroll until you see *EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETdaily* and *EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETinst* options. Click on the “+” signs to add those layers to your cart. Next, clear the selection of the current category using the small “x” to the right of the *ECOSTRESS Evapotranspiration PT-JPL* box.

The screenshot shows the 'Extract Area Sample' form in the AppEEARS interface. Red arrows with numbers 4 through 9 point to specific fields and actions:

- 4**: Points to the 'Enter a name to identify your sample' text input field, which contains 'ET Central Valley Aug 6'.
- 5**: Points to the 'Drop a vector polygon file containing the area feature(s) to extract or click here' text area, which lists supported file formats: Shapefile (.zip including .shp, .dbf, .prj and .shx files) and GeoJSON (.json or .geojson).
- 6**: Points to the 'Start Date' and 'End Date' date pickers, both set to '08-06-2022'.
- 7**: Points to the 'Select the layers to include in the sample' search box, which contains 'Ecostress evapotranspiration'. Below it, a list of layers is shown, including 'ECOSTRESS Evapotranspiration PT-JPL' and 'ECOSTRESS Evapotranspiration dis-ALEXI'.
- 8**: Points to the 'Output Options' section, specifically the 'File Format' dropdown menu, which is set to 'GeoTIFF'.
- 9**: Points to the 'Submit' button at the bottom right of the form.

NOTE: There are two models that can estimate evapotranspiration based on ECOSTRESS’s measurement of land surface temperature. One model, “PT-JPL”, is the most versatile and likely the best choice for most cases, including our experiment here today. The other option “DisALEXI-JPL” has a different set of equations associated with it. If you are interested in evapotranspiration in agricultural settings, consider DisALEXI; otherwise, or if you are unsure, stay with PT-JPL.

8. Under *Output Options*, we want to use GeoTIFF (Geographic Tagged Image File Format; essentially an image file where the corresponding geographic information is embedded in the file) and *Native Projection* for projection.

9. Click *Submit* to complete the data request. At the top, you should see a green banner:

✓ The area sample request was successfully submitted. An email notification will be delivered once the request is complete.

10. Use the *Explore* drop-down at the top to monitor the status of your request. It will likely go quickly, given



that it is only one day's worth of data.

AppEEARS Extract Explore Help 10

Some MODIS/Terra Snow Cover v6.1 (MOD10A2) tiles are currently unavailable to AppEEARS. Requests containing MOD10A2 data may result in processing errors.

Explore Requests

Please see [Sample Request Retention](#) for details on expired requests.

Showing requests 1 - 49 of 49

« Prev 1 Next »

Request	Type	Status	Details	Date Submitted	Date Completed
ET Central Valley Aug 6	Area Sample	Queued	Details	09-18-2023 1:35:15 PM PDT	09-18-2023 1:35:16 PM PDT

6.1.4 Downloading Evapotranspiration Component Data For The Next Tutorial

11. In the meantime, we are going to create a request for the next tutorial, Tutorial 7, which continues to explore evapotranspiration by looking at the individual components. Setup a new request for data called “ET Components,” but this time we are going to select different variables.

Extract Area Sample

Enter a name to identify your sample

ET Components

Upload a file or draw a polygon using the or icon

Drop a vector polygon file containing the area feature(s) to extract or [click here](#) to select the file.

Supported file formats:

- Shapefile (.zip including .shp, .dbf, .prj, and .shx files)
- GeoJSON (.json or .geojson)

Selected file (californiacentralvalley.geojson)

Start Date: 08-06-2022 End Date: 08-06-2022

☐ Is Date Recurring?

Select the layers to include in the sample

ECOSTRESS Evapotranspiration PT-JPL
ECOSTRESS_PT_JPL_001, 70m, ISS-dependent, (2018-07-09 to Present)

- ☒ EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETdaily
- ☒ EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETinst
- ☒ EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETinstUncertainty

Select All (3) Remove All (3)

Output Options

File Format: GeoTiff

Projection: Native Projection

NOTE: Be aware that any reprojection of data from its source projection to a different projection will inherently change the data from its original format. All reprojections use GDAL's `gdalwarp` function in combination with the PROJ.4 string listed above. For additional information, see the AppEEARS [help documentation](#).

[Submit](#) [Cancel](#)

12. Under the layer category “ECOSTRESS Evapotranspiration PT-JPL” select “EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETcanopy”, “EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETinterception”, and “EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETsoil”.



13. Submit this request. We will return to it in Tutorial 7.

Explore Requests Please see [Sample Request Retention](#) for details on expired requests.

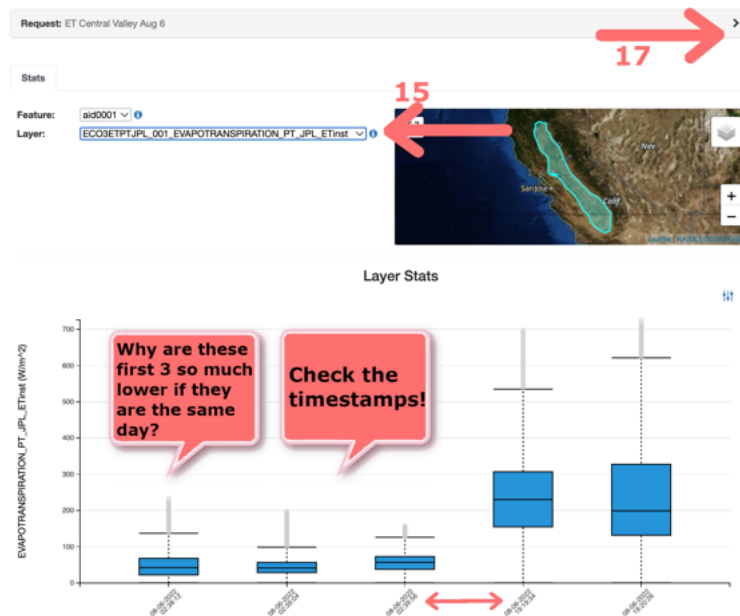
Showing requests 1 - 50 of 50

Prev 1 Next

Request	Type	Status	Details	Date Submitted	Date Completed
ET Components	Area Sample	Done	Details	09-18-2023 1:56:35 PM PDT	09-18-2023 2:23:56 PM PDT
ET Central Valley Aug 6	Area Sample	Done	Details	09-18-2023 1:35:15 PM PDT	09-18-2023 2:12:25 PM PDT

6.1.5 Data Check

14. When your first request (“ET Central Valley Aug 6”) is complete, use the link on the *Explore* page to access the details. Let’s check out the data!



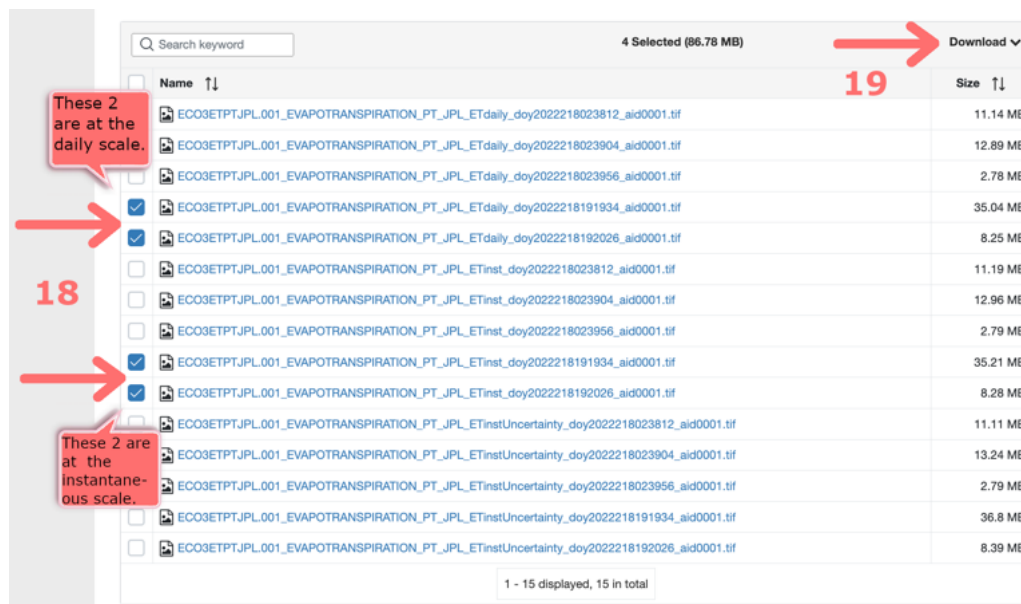
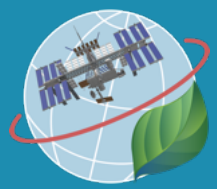
15. Select the *ECOSTRESS Evapotranspiration PT-JPL* layer.

16. Notice that there were different passes on the same day with very different values. Any ideas why? Checking the timestamps lets us know what is happening. The first three were at 02:00 in the morning when there is no sun and the plants are not transpiring.

17. To download the data from the daylight hours, select the small caret arrow in the gray box above and click on the *Download* button.

18. Select the following filenames:

- ECO3ETPTJPL.001_EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETdaily_doy2022218192026_aid0001.tif
- ECO3ETPTJPL.001_EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETdaily_doy2022218191934_aid0001.tif
- ECO3ETPTJPL.001_EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETinst_doy2022218192026_aid0001.tif
- ECO3ETPTJPL.001_EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETinst_doy2022218191934_aid0001.tif



NOTE: ECOSTRESS estimates evapotranspiration at two time scales. The first, *ET_inst*, stands for instantaneous evapotranspiration and is calculated at the moment of the satellite pass. The other, *ET_daily*, is an estimate of the total evapotranspiration for the day of the satellite pass. We will examine this further later.

19. Download the files using the *Download* button that for some reason does not look much like a button on the top right corner of the screen. Save the files somewhere you can remember.

6.2 VISUALIZING ECOSTRESS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION DATA IN QGIS

6.2.1 Adding a Google Satellite Basemap

20. Open QGIS and start a new project by selecting the *Project* menu, then *New*.

21. To add a basemap, find the *HCMGIS* menu bar, select *Basemap*, then pick your preferred map. For today's map, we will use *Google Satellite*. Note that clicking on a basemap type automatically adds a new layer to your map, as seen in the layer browser window.

6.2.2 Importing The NASA JPL Evapotranspiration Color ramp

NASA has specifically designed a color palette to use with ECOSTRESS evapotranspiration data.



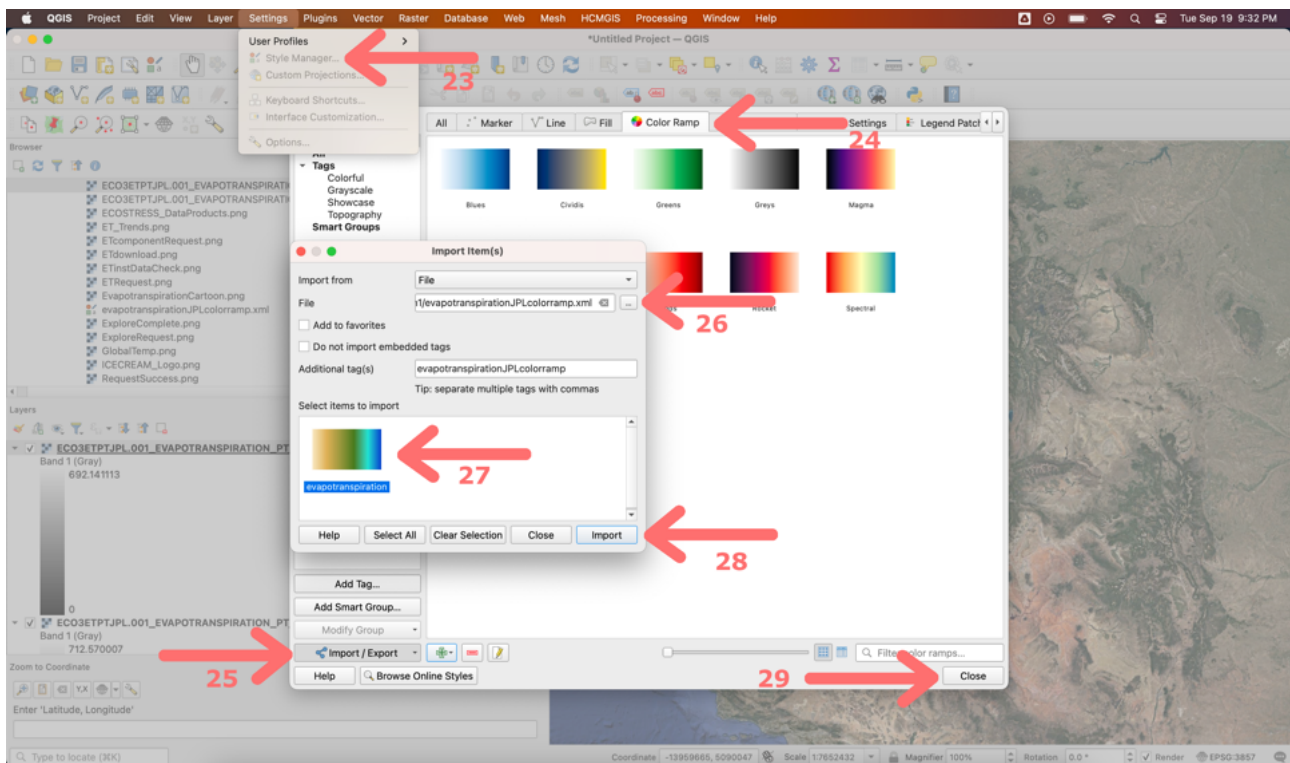
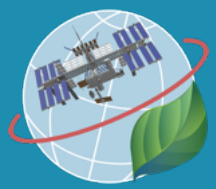
22. Download the color ramp file here: [evapotranspirationJPLcolorramp.xml](#) and save it somewhere you can remember. Depending on your PDF viewer you may have to right-click and then hit *Save As*.

23. From the *Settings* top menu, select *Style Manager*.

24. Select the "Color Ramp" tab.

25. Find and click on the *Import/Export* button.

26. To the right of the *File* input box click on the button with 3 dots (...). Select the *evapotranspirationJPLcolorramp.xml* file we just downloaded.

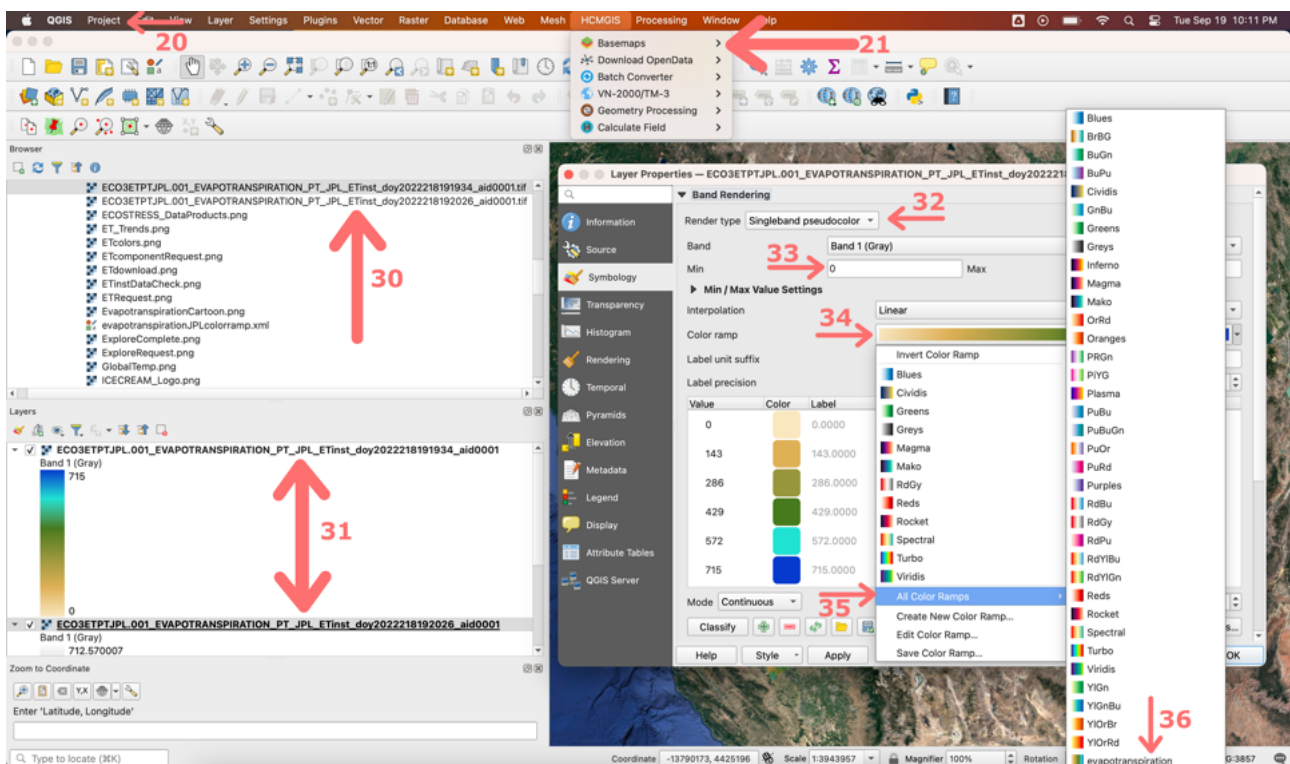


27. Click on the new “evapotranspiration” color ramp.

28. Click the *Import* button.

29. Click the *Close* button. We will use this color ramp in the next section of this tutorial.

6.2.3 Add in evapotranspiration layer(s)





30. Use the *browser* window to find the folder where you saved the two instantaneous evapotranspiration .tif files:

- ECO3ETPTJPL.001_EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETinst_doy2022218192026_aid0001.tif
- ECO3ETPTJPL.001_EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETinst_doy2022218191934_aid0001.tif

Double-click each file to add them to your map. Again, notice that they are now also listed in the *Layers* window.

31. Now you have ECOSTRESS evapotranspiration data on your map. But wait, if you recall from our Death Valley Land Surface Temperature maps, QGIS does not know the type of data you are using and has defaulted to displaying the information in grayscale. For each of the evapotranspiration layers, right-click on the layer name in the *Layers* window and select *Layer Properties*.

32. On the menu bar to the left, select *Symbology* and change *Render type* to Singleband pseudocolor.

33. QGIS has automatically determined the minimum and maximum values from the datafiles; however, we have two files, so we need to match them. Specify 0 as the minimum and 715 as the maximum. Click apply.

34. To access the fancy new color ramp we just downloaded click on the color ramp button.

35. Select *All Color Ramps*.

36. Select our new *Evapotranspiration* color ramp.

37. Finally, add the border from CaliforniaCentralValley.geojson by double clicking on it in the *Browser* window. Right-click (ctrl-click on Mac) on the layer in the *Layers* window and change the symbology to *outline red*.

NOTE: There was not full data coverage for the entire Central Valley available, that is why the northern and southern most part of the outline does not have any color overlayed. This sometimes happens because of the orbit of the space station. If we were interested in filling in the gaps, we would look for passes plus or minus one week around the same time of day and form a composite.

6.3 ADD MAP ELEMENTS

34. Following the procedure described in [Tutorial #5 : Adding Elements To Maps](#), make a professional map complete with scalebars, labels, a legend, titles, and a North arrow. Include a basemap showcasing the study area (California's Central Valley) and two inset maps. The one that we just created now for the instantaneous evapotranspiration data and one using the daily scale (ETdaily) GeoTIFF files we downloaded. This map will be your map of the week assignment.



Map of the Week Assignments

1. Make an evapotranspiration map for California's central valley with two insets, one for the instantaneous evapotranspiration data and one for the daily evapotranspiration data we downloaded in the tutorial for August 6, 2022 (day of the year 218). The map should be complete with scalebars(s), north arrow(s), legend(s), title(s), and label(s).
2. Provide a 1-2 paragraph description of your map that includes your hypotheses about how land surface temperature would influence evapotranspiration. Does your map support your hypotheses? How did instantaneous and daily data differ? How is it possible that daily evapotranspiration is less than instantaneous?

Submit these assignments via Canvas before Monday's class.

Datafiles

In case you encountered any issues with the AppEEARS database, here are copies of the ECOSTRESS GeoTIFF files for the Central Valley of California. ET_{inst} :

1. [ECO3ETPTJPL.001_EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETinst_doy2022218192026_aid0001.tif](#)
2. [ECO3ETPTJPL.001_EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETinst_doy2022218191934_aid0001.tif](#)

And ET_{daily} :

1. [ECO3ETPTJPL.001_EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETdaily_doy2022218192026_aid0001.tif](#)
2. [ECO3ETPTJPL.001_EVAPOTRANSPIRATION_PT_JPL_ETdaily_doy2022218191934_aid0001.tif](#)

Recommended Citation: Forsythe, J.D., G.R. Goldsmith, and J.B. Fisher. 2023. Observing Earth from Above Tutorials. Chapman University. <https://jeremydforsythe.github.io/icecream-tutorials/>

This work is supported by funding from NASA ECOSTRESS Mission Grant #80NSSC23K0309 (I.C.E. C.R.E.A.M.: Integrating Communication of ECOSTRESS Into Community Research, Education, Applications, and Media).