

STEVEN COGNAC

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EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Data Science (expected June 2022)

Bren School of Environmental Science & Management - University of California, Santa Barbara

Highlighted Coursework: Statistics for Environmental Data Science, Scientific, Programming Essentials, Spatial Data Analysis, Analytical Workflows and Scientific Reproducibility, Meta-analysis and Systematic Reviews, Metadata Standards, Data Modeling and Data Semantics

B.S. in Environmental Science and Sustainable Food & Farming (May 2014)

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Teaching: Introductory GIS TA 2014

Honors: cum laude, Dean's List 2010-2014

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCE

Biologist (1/2019–5/2021)

WRA, Inc., Emeryville, CA

- Collaborate with clients on environmental regulatory compliance for development, biological community restoration, water quality enhancements, and biological monitoring projects
- Lead natural resource assessments on urban properties and ranches up to 4,000 acres. Assessments conducted include wetland delineations, special-status plant species surveys, vegetation mapping, water quality monitoring and analysis, and biological monitoring
- Manage permitting processes with agencies such as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California's Regional Water Quality Control Boards, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Coastal Commission
- Collaborate with project stakeholders, botanists, wildlife biologists, landscape architects, and engineers to aggregate and quantify information for technical and resource assessment reports

Vegetation Ecology Intern (3/2018–10/2018)

National Park Service, Point Reyes Station, CA

- Planned and executed botanical surveys with mobile mapping units of 131 emerging invasive plants throughout the San Francisco Bay Area National Park system
- Ensure proper data entry, management, and storage in the Calflora Weed Manager database and internal MS Access database
- Support NPS staff in sampling and inventorying federally and state listed rare, threatened, and endangered plants
- Perform herbarium work such as collecting, photographing, processing, scanning, and pressing plant specimens for digital and physical herbarium accession

Research Assistant (8/2017–1/2018)

Everglades Wetland Research Park, Naples, FL

- Aided pilot development of a GIS-based wetland restoration model aimed at targeting restoration hot-spots in the historic extent of the Great Black Swamp region in Ohio
- Assisted MS and PhD candidates in researching how storm pulsing influences the dynamics of the hydrologic budget and water quality parameters within a tropical constructed stormwater wetland

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ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCE - continued

Wetland Scientist/Environmental Analyst (6/2014–5/2016, 9/2016–6/2017)

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., Watertown, MA

- Developed environmental permit applications in support of engineering projects for state and local transportation agencies and private development clients
- Lead and organized natural resource surveys including wetland and stream delineations, invasive species mapping, habitat assessments, stormwater/groundwater monitoring, and wetland assessments
- Developed an ArcGIS protocol to aggregate field data and state geodatabase repositories to assess the impact of development on native grassland and vernal pool amphibian corridors. Received approval from state and federal agencies on assessment methodologies
- Analyzed MassDOT Highway transportation project plans/scopes of work to identify, document, and administer environmental compliance pertaining to federal/state environmental permitting

Wetland Field Technician (5/2016–9/2016)

Midwest Biodiversity Institute, Hilliard, OH

- Executed EPA field sampling protocols at over 65 sites throughout the eastern seaboard for the 2016 National Wetland Condition Assessment
- Analyzed and collected hydric soil and water samples, conducted botanical inventories, characterized hydrology, and led disposition of samples
- Handled site reconnaissance, landowner and agency coordination, and pre-sample site visits to determine presence/absence of hydric soil and wetland flora

Wetlands Unit Intern (5/2013–9/2013)

MassDOT Highway Division, Environmental Services, Boston, MA

- Designed a water quality best management practice template to address Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination for the 2013/2014 MassDOT NPDES MS4 Permit submittal
- Coordinated and co-lead field efforts for a program which assessed the ecological connectivity of MassDOT culverts and bridges; conducted desktop site reconnaissance; as a certified MA Stream Crossing Assessor, lead field data collection efforts; updated the Conservation Assessment and Prioritization database
- Updated the MassDOT Impaired Waters geodatabase and created environmental locus maps using ArcGIS
- Worked with the USGS to test capabilities of Stochastic Empirical Loading and Dilution Model on roadway phosphorus loading

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Software: R, Python, Github, SQLite, ESRI ArcGIS (ArcMap), (Basic) Command Line, Trimble Pathfinder, Google Earth Pro

Field Skills and Equipment: wetland delineation, botanical dichotomous keys, Trimble GPS (Geo Explorer), YSI ProDSS/EXO2, pressure transducer setup and management

Project & Content Management: Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Google Suite, Slack

Certifications: 40-HR HAZWOPER, Basic Wetland Delineation, First Aid/CPR, SCUBA Open Water

Affiliations: Eco-Data Science, Association of State Wetland Managers, California Native Plant Society

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2017 – 2018: New England Wildflower Society, Plant Conservation Volunteer Program. Conduct surveys of rare and endangered species within Massachusetts.

2019 – 2020: Jepson Herbarium curatorial volunteer. Mounting Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden specimens from the Flora of LA collection.

2020 - 2021: East Bay California Native Plant Society rare plant volunteer in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties