

# Katelyn Toigo

(618) 823-2026 | [ktoigo@ucsb.edu](mailto:ktoigo@ucsb.edu) | Santa Barbara, CA

## EDUCATION

---

**Master of Environmental Science and Management**, 3.95 GPA (Expected June 2022)

**Bren School of Environmental Science & Management – University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)**

Specialization: Conservation Planning

Honors/Awards: Forest Sustainability Fellowship (Michael J. Connell Memorial Fund), Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute Solar Power and Wildlife/Natural Resources Symposium Scholarship

Highlighted Coursework: Economics of Environmental Management, Environmental Law and Policy, Environmental Politics and Policy, Landscape Ecology, Ecology of Managed Ecosystems, Strategic Planning for Non-Profit Ventures, Biological Community Survey and Analysis

**Bachelor of Science in Geography and Environmental Resources**, 4.00 GPA (May 2020)

**Southern Illinois University**, Carbondale, IL

Specialization: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Honors/Awards: Summa Cum Laude, David E. Christensen Endowed Award for Undergraduate Research in Sustainable Environmental Studies, Environmental Ambassador Award (4 years), Outstanding Student in Geography (4 years)

**Bachelor of Science in Zoology**, 4.00 GPA (May 2020)

**Southern Illinois University**, Carbondale, IL

Specialization: Wildlife Biology

Honors/Awards: Summa Cum Laude, Research Enriched Academic Challenge Grant (REACH), Illinois State Academy of Science – 1st place in undergraduate oral presentations in Environmental Science, SIUC University Excellence Scholarship

## MASTER'S GROUP PROJECT

---

**The California Solar-Conservation Nexus** (4/21 – Present)

**Client**: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | **Role**: Financial Manager | **Deliverables**: Report and Presentation

- Collaborate and communicate with team members to conduct spatial analyses, write reports, etc.
- Facilitate meetings with the client and advisors
- Design an economic model to compare profitability of conservation easements to solar developments
- Provide policy recommendations for conservation and solar development on retired agricultural lands

## ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCE

---

**Conservation Connect Fellow – National Forest Foundation (NFF)**, Boise, ID (5/21– Present)

- Communicated with stakeholders and U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Identified USFS challenges and wrote a summary report for NFF and the USFS Washington D.C. office
- Created a business plan for the Southern Idaho Forest Fund for presentation to potential donors
- Designed a mailer delivered to over 23,000 residents of the Wood River Valley

**Floodplain Restoration GLOBE Intern – The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**, Havana, IL (6/19–8/19)

- Coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Illinois Natural History Survey, and the Illinois River Biological Station performing research and stewardship.
- Conducted public use survey and wrote final summary report to guide management strategies.
- Created 10 stewardship data maps using ArcGIS Desktop to guide future stewardship activities.
- Composed final presentation summing accomplishments and presented to the Illinois Chapter of TNC.

**Environmental Resources Intern – Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Ullin, IL (8/19–12/19)**

- Compiled LiDAR DEM rasters of Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge using SAGA GIS and ArcGIS Desktop to determine potential restoration areas within 8 habitat types found on the Refuge.
- Guided canoe tours for visitors of the Refuge.
- Directed children's activities teaching the importance of the local refuge at a Cache River Days event.
- Performed radio telemetry to locate endangered Indiana bat roosts to better understand their habits.

**COMMUNICATION & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

---

**Research Assistant – Southern Illinois University, Dr. Jason Brown Lab, Carbondale, IL (8/19–5/20)**

- Collaborated in creation of Tangible Niche & Demographic Simulator (TANAGERS) which combines environmental and biological variables to create a powerful population genetics teaching tool.
- Employed GRASS GIS in construction of TANAGERS.
- Presented TANAGERS at Southern Illinois University Annual Research Presentation (50+ audience).
- Cooperated with a computer science student to streamline the simulator function.

**Student Researcher – Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL (8/18–5/19)**

- Designed, wrote, and awarded a grant proposal (\$2000) for research on the *Effects of Strip Mine Reclamation Practices on Terrestrial Snail Communities*.
- Conducted independent research and led a team of student assistants.
- Amplified a region of mitochondrial rrnL (16s) gene via PCR to aid snail identification.
- Presented poster in-person to 300 attendees at the World Congress of Malacology.

**Research Assistant – University of Illinois, Illinois Natural History Survey, Sullivan, IL (6/18–8/18)**

- Sampled mid-sized rivers via electrofishing, side scan sonar, and other methods.
- Analyzed data using ArcGIS Desktop to identify habitat-fish associations.
- Wrote a protocol to guide future employees.
- Collaborated with researchers from Eastern Illinois University.

**Research Intern – National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, East Alton, IL (6/17–8/17)**

- Coordinated sampling of mid-sized river habitat (Kaskaskia and Embarras Rivers in Illinois).
- Interpreted side scan sonar images to identify woody debris using ArcGIS Desktop.
- Identified fish species (larval, juvenile, and adult).
- Composed final PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate the educational benefit of the internship.

**PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

---

**Effects of Strip Mine Reclamation Practices on Terrestrial Snails**, World Congress of Malacology, 2019

**Strip Mine Reclamation – Reestablishing Sustainable Ecosystems in Southern Illinois**, Department of Geography and Environmental Resources (Southern Illinois University) Annual Poster Session, 2019

**Habitat Value in Mid-Sized Rivers in Illinois**, Illinois Academy of Science, 2018

**SKILLS**

---

**Computer:** ArcGIS (Desktop and Pro), Microsoft Office Suite, Marxan, MaxEnt, SDMtoolbox, Circuitscape, ERDAS Imagine, QGIS, R, GitHub, Zoom, Cisco Webex, Slack, data analysis, social media

**Technical:** GPS, DNA barcoding, side scan sonar, electrofishing, radio telemetry, grant writing

**Public Outreach:** Leading public programs, conducting surveys, youth education programs

**Field:** Prescribed burn assistance, fish sampling/identification, snail sampling/identification, mammal sampling techniques, bird surveys, plant surveys, invasive plant identification and removal, benthic substrate sampling, soil analyses, boat and vehicle operation