

Zachary L. Steel

✉ zlsteel@berkeley.edu 🌐 zack-steel.com | Updated: February 9, 2021

EDUCATION

University of California, Davis, Ph.D. Ecology	2014–2018
University of California, Davis, M.S. Ecology	2008–2011
Whitman College, B.A. Biology	2002–2006

EMPLOYMENT

University of California, Berkeley:

Post-doctoral Researcher	2019–Present
--------------------------	--------------

University of California, Davis:

Graduate Student Researcher	2014–2018
-----------------------------	-----------

Jr. Specialist Researcher	2012–2014
---------------------------	-----------

Fire Science Consortium Technical Coordinator	2012–2013
---	-----------

US Fulbright Program, Santiago, Chile:

Research Fellow	2011
-----------------	------

University of California, Davis:

Graduate Student Researcher	2008–2011
-----------------------------	-----------

University of California, Santa Cruz:

Assistant Biologist	2007–2008
---------------------	-----------

PRBO Conservation Sciences:

Biology Technician	2007–2008
--------------------	-----------

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Steel, Z. L., B. M. Collins, D. B. Sapsis, and S. L. Stephens. *In Review*. “Quantifying pyrodiversity and its drivers”. *Proc. R. Soc. B*. [Pre-print](#)

Jager, H., J. Long, R. Malison, B. Murphy, A. Rust, L. Silva, R. Sollman, **Z. Steel**, M. Bowen, J. Dunham, J. Ebersole, and R. Flitcroft. *In Review*. “Resilience of terrestrial and aquatic fauna to historical and future wildfire regimes in western North America”. *Journal of Animal Ecology*. ***All authors contributed equally**

Stephens, S., S. Thompson, G. Boisrame, B. Collins, L. Ponisio, K. Rakhmatulina, **Z. Steel**, J. Stevens, K. Wilken, and J. van Wagtendonk. *In Review*. “Fire, water, and biodiversity in the Sierra Nevada: A possible triple win”. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*.

Williams, J., H. Safford, N. Enstice, J. Tangenberg, and **Z. Steel**. *In Review*. “High severity burn area and proportion exceed historic conditions in forests of Sierra Nevada and adjacent ranges (USA)”. *Ecological Applications*.

Steel, Z. L., A. Fogg, R. Burnett, L. J. Roberts, H. D. Safford. *In Revision*. “When bigger isn’t better – implications of large high-severity wildfire patches on avian diversity and community composition”. *Diversity and Distributions*. [Pre-print](#)

Steel, Z. L., D. Foster, M. Coppoletta, J. M. Lydersen, B. Wing, S. L. Stephens, and B. M. Collins. *In Revision*. “Ecological resilience and vegetation transition in the face of multiple large wildfires”. *Journal of Ecology*.

Steel, Z. L., M.J. Goodwin, M.D. Meyer, G.A. Fricker, H.S.J. Zald, M.D. Hurteau, and M.P. North. 2021. Do forest fuel reduction treatments confer resistance to beetle infestation and drought mortality? *Ecosphere* **12(1)**:e03344.

Steel, Z. L., B. Campos, W. Frick, R. Burnett, and H. D. Safford. 2019. “The effects of wildfire severity and pyrodiversity on bat occupancy and diversity in fire-suppressed forests”. *Scientific Reports* **9**, 16300.

Wilkins, L. G. E., K. R. Matthew, **Z. L. Steel**, S. C. Nussle, and S. M. Carlson. 2019. “Population dynamics of *Rana sierrae* at Dusy Basin: Influence of non-native predators, drought, and restoration potential”. *Ecosphere* **10(11)**:e02951.

Steel, Z. L., M. Koontz, and H. Safford. 2018. “The changing landscape of wildfire: Burn pattern trends and implications for California’s yellow pine and mixed conifer forests”. *Landscape Ecology* **33(7)**, 1159-1176.

Steel, Z. L., A. E. Steel, J. Williams, J. H. Viers, P. Marquet, and O. Barbosa. 2017. “Patterns of bird diversity and habitat use in mixed vineyard-matorral landscapes of Central Chile”. *Ecological Indicators* **73**:345-357.

Grof-Tisza, P., **Z. L. Steel**, E. Cole, M. Holyoak, and R. Karban. 2017. “Testing predictions of movement behavior in a hilltopping moth”. *Animal Behavioral* **133**:161-168.

Grof-Tisza, P., **Z. L. Steel**, and R. Karban. 2017. “The spatial distribution and oviposition preference of the Ranchman’s tiger moth, *Platyrepia virginalis* (Lepidoptera: Arctiidae)”. *Journal of the Lepidopterists’ Society* **71(1)**:16-19.

Steel, Z. L., H. D. Safford, and J. H. Viers. 2015. “The fire frequency-severity relationship and the legacy of fire suppression in California forests”. *Ecosphere* **6(1)**:1-23.

Schwartz, M.W., L. B. Smith, and **Z. L. Steel**. 2013. “Conservation investment for rare plants in urban environments”. *PLOS ONE* **8(12)**:e83809.

Siegel, R. B, R. L. Wilkerson, J. F. Saracco, and **Z. L. Steel**. 2011. “Elevational distribution of common bird species on the Sierra Nevada’s west slope”. *Western Birds* **42**:2-26.

Technical Reports and Software

Steel, Z. L., M. Meyer, A. Wuenschel, S. Ostoja, and M. North. 2020. “Climate-wise reforestation toolkit”. Rshiny web application prepared for the US Forest Service, and the California Climate Hub. [Available online](#)

Steel, Z. L., B. R. Campos, and H. D. Safford. 2018. “Bat occupancy in Sierra Nevada wildfire areas and implications for post-fire management”. Prepared for US Forest Service, Region 5. [PDF](#)

Campos, B. R., **Z. L. Steel**. FIRE-BAT spatial predictive tool. ArcGIS toolbox prepared for US Forest Service, Region 5. [Users Manual](#)

Campos, B. R., R. D. Burnett, and **Z. L. Steel**. 2017. “Bird and bat inventories in the Storrie and Chips fire areas 2015-2016: Final report to the Lassen National Forest”. Point Blue Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA. Point Blue Contribution No. 2142. [PDF](#)

Steel, Z. L. and H. D. Safford. 2017. “Acoustic inventory and monitoring of bat species in the Power Fire burn area – 2014, 2015, and 2016 field season”. Prepared for Eldorado National Forest, California, USDA Region 5. [PDF](#)

Fogg, A. M, **Z. L. Steel** and R. D. Burnett. 2017. “Avian Monitoring in Freds and Power fires: Final Report”. Point Blue Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA. Point Blue Contribution No. 2138. [PDF](#)

Schwartz, M. W., et al. 2013. "Sensitive Animals - Appendix 15 to SEKI Natural Resources Condition Assessment". Natural Resource Report NPS/SEKI/NRCA—2013/665. National Park Service. Fort Collins, Colorado. Assessments within:

Steel, Z. L., E. Reddy and R. Green. The American Pika - *Ochotona princeps*

Steel, Z. L., J. Shields. Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep - *Ovis canadensis sierrae*

Copeland, S., K. Dybala, **Z. L. Steel**. California Condor - *Gymnogyps californianus*

Steel, Z. L., Sierra Nevada Chipmunks - *Tamias spp.*

Steel, Z. L., M. L. Bond, R. B. Siegel, and P. Pyle. 2012. "Avifauna of Sierra Nevada Network parks: Assessing distribution, abundance, stressors, and conservation opportunities for 145 bird species". Natural Resource Report NPS/SEKI/NRCA—2012/506. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado. [PDF](#)

TEACHING

Graduate Teaching:

Guest Lecturer – UCD, Fire Ecology	Winter 2020-2021
Guest Lecturer – UCB, Fire Ecology Seminar	Spring 2020
Co-Instructor – UCD, Fire Ecology	Winter 2018
Guest Lecturer – UCD, Ecogeomorphology	Spring 2014–2018
Certificate of Completion – UCD Foundations of Teaching workshop series	Fall 2017
Guest Lecturer – American River College, Experimental Design	Spring 2017
Teaching Assistant – UCD, Trees and Forests; PLS 144	Fall 2015
Teaching Assistant – UCD, Trees and Forests; PLS 144	Fall 2014

Mentoring:

Undergraduate Mentor – Student research experience	Spring 2019-Present
Undergraduate Mentor – Association for Women in Science Mentoring program	2019
High School Mentor – Student & Landowner Education Stewardship program	2015–2016
Undergraduate Mentor – Student research experience	Summer 2009

Outdoor Education:

Naturalist/Raft Guide – UCD, Outdoor & Watershed Sciences programs	2013-2018
Teacher/Scientist – Earthwatch citizen science programs	2013
Naturalist/Kayak Guide – San Juan Islands, WA	Summers 2006-2007

Undergraduate Teaching:

Teaching Assistant – Whitman College, Genetics; BIO 205	Fall 2005
Teaching Assistant – Whitman College, Ecology; BIO 277	Spring 2005

AWARDS

Research grants:

2020-22: *Implications of increasing the scale of managed wildfire on forest carbon stocks and pyrodiversity*. Funded by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE). \$422,000*

2017-18: *Ecological implications of wildfire and forest restoration on birds and bats (phase II)*. Funded by US Forest Service. \$122,000*

2014-17: *Ecological implications of wildfire and forest restoration on birds and bats (phase I)*. Funded by US Forest Service. \$127,000*

2011: *Quantifying avian habitat use and carbon stocks in Chilean vineyards*. Funded by US Fulbright Program. \$17,000

*Unofficial PI due to temporary position

Fellowships:

2014-18 (7 quarters): *Graduate Group of Ecology Fellowship*. Funded by UC Davis. \$79,000

2017: *Ecology Student Endowment*. Funded by UC Davis. \$1500

2010: *Graduate Group of Ecology Fellowship*. Funded by UC Davis. \$11,000

2002-06: *Walter Brattain Merit scholarship*. Funded by Whitman College. \$32,000

2001-02 (2 awards): *Governor's college scholarship*. Funded by State of California. \$2000

PRESENTATIONS

Western Section of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting (**Invited plenary**) 2021

Implications of changing fire patterns on habitats and wildlife

Natural Areas Association Annual Meeting (**Invited**) 2020

Implications of changing fire regimes for Sierra Nevada bat and bird communities

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting 2020

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger - or not: Conifer mortality following forest treatments and drought ([Recording available with ESA access](#))

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference 2019

The Influence of Burn Severity and Pyrodiversity on Bat Communities in Sierra Nevada Forests

Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems International Conference (MedPine6) 2018

Changing patterns of severe wildfire lead to bird diversity declines & community transitions in conifer forests of California, USA

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting 2018

Bat species occupancy varies across a disturbance gradient; implications for a future of extreme wildfire events

Instituto Politécnico Nacional, CIIDIR-Unidad Oaxaca, Mexico (**Invited**) 2017

Murciélagos en un paisaje caracterizado por incendios: Impactos en diversidad y uso de hábitat

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting 2017

The influence of spatial context and successional pathways on bird communities following high-severity wildfire

Northwest Science Conference (**Invited**) 2017

The influence of burn severity on bat species occurrence in post-fire landscapes

Mediterranean Ecosystems Conference (MEDECOS) 2017

Shifting patterns of California fire and forest landscapes in an era of global change

Natural Areas Conference	2016
<i>The Changing Landscape of California Fire: Trends in Burn Patterns and Post-Fire Forest Heterogeneity</i>	
Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile (Invited)	2011
<i>Mercados de carbono: una oportunidad potencial para biodiversidad en agroecosistemas</i>	
Buenos Aires Fulbright Regional Enhancement Seminar	2011
<i>Carbon Sequestration: Risk or tool for biodiversity?</i>	
Bay Area Conservation Biology Symposium	2011
<i>Assessing species vulnerability to climate change in the Willamette Valley Ecoregion</i>	

Service

Profession Society Membership: Ecological Society of America, The Wildlife Society, Natural Areas Association

Reviewer: *Global Change Biology, Landscape Ecology, PLOS One, Ecosphere, Ecography, Diversity and Distributions*

Special Symposium co-organizer: "Toward a comprehensive understanding of pyrodiversity: How landscape- scale heterogeneity in fire history influences biodiversity across taxa, fire regimes, and spatial scales." Accepted for the International Association of Landscape Ecology 2021 meeting, Reno, NV