

KATIE POFAHL

EDUCATION

Yale School of the Environment

New Haven, CT

Master of Environmental Management, 2021

- **Focus:** Collaborative land conservation, natural solutions to climate change, and organizational management
- **Relevant Coursework:** Land Conservation, Wildlands Fire Science, Public Finance, Facilitation, Negotiation
- **Awards:** 2020 Wyss Scholar for the Conservation of the American West, 2020 Switzer Fellowship for environmental and social leadership
- **Leadership:** YSE Climate Fellow, Forestry Club Vice President, Society for Ecological Restoration Student Leader

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Madison, WI

Bachelor of Arts: Zoology, Biological Aspects of Conservation; Certificate: Environmental Studies, 2006

- **Honors and awards:** National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Grant, Dean's List, NCAA Student-Athlete Award, Big Ten Student-Athlete Award
- **Athletics:** Rowing: 1st varsity eight+, Division 1 Women's Rowing Championships 3 time qualifier

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

The Nature Conservancy in California

South Lake Tahoe, CA

Forest Project Manager

September 2022 – present

- Implement collaborative forest and watershed restoration projects including the 2.4 M acre Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative, 275, 000 acre North Yuba Forest Partnership, and the 2,700 Independence Lake forest health project
- Manage a strategic initiative to accelerate the development of wood utilization infrastructure in California, including efforts to improve wood supply surety from USDA Forest Service lands
- Develop communications and policy change initiatives to increase public support for forest restoration
- Plan and support prescribed fire initiatives, including Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges and a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE

The Nature Conservancy in Washington

Cle Elum, WA

Community Relations Manager

July 2021 – September 2022

- Developed and managed dry forest health programs, plans and methods in Eastern Washington including prescribed burning, wildfire response, forest products markets, and watershed-scale restoration
- Convened local, state, and federal partners, private landowners, and tribes to develop collaborative strategy with the Conservancy's public funding, philanthropy, communications, science, and government relations teams
- Implemented innovative practices on Conservancy lands as part of watershed-scale forest restoration projects
- Managed a large, complex team with philanthropy, government relations and finance workstreams using skills in budgeting, project management, leadership, and strategy development

United States Climate Alliance Natural and Working Lands Program

Washington, D.C.

Climate Solutions Consultant

September 2020 – May 2021

- Managed a remote team to create self-evaluation tools for USCA member states, increasing ambition and implementation of natural and working lands climate actions in conjunction with the NWL Working Group
- Consult with member states to support adoption of the self-evaluation as an Alliance-wide tool

The Nature Conservancy in California

San Francisco, CA

Policy Researcher

May 2020 – December 2020

- Analyzed policy actions that will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in a dry forest ecosystem and support a sustainable forest products industry working alongside TNC CA's internal leadership, partners, and state staff

Center for Business and the Environment at Yale

New Haven, CT

Conservation Finance Research Assistant

September 2019 – May 2021

- Educated conservation practitioners about cutting-edge financial strategies — including ballot initiatives, carbon credits, and project co-creation — through the Nature's Returns conservation finance webinar series

Yale School of the Environment Department of Sociology

New Haven, CT

Rural Sociology Researcher

May 2020 – January 2021

- Published research showing the effects of COVID-19 on the rural U.S., highlighting material need, political attitudes, and outlook for economic recovery
- Managed a \$100K project grant from NSF; contracted with professional survey firms, managed research timelines, designed a website and data visualizations, and authored a published article

Ucross High Plains Stewardship Initiative

New Haven, CT

Collaborative Conservation Research Assistant

June 2019 – May 2020

- Evaluated an approach to landscape-scale grassland conservation through sustainable development and land acquisition with The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming
- Collaborated with students and professors from four universities to assess the best practices in grassland restoration with The Nature Conservancy in Montana

Elkhorn Slough Foundation

Moss Landing, CA

Community Outreach Manager

August 2013 – October 2018

- Managed a five-year habitat restoration and park infrastructure project; tasks included planning, budgeting, state and local permitting, hiring, staff management, plant propagation, monitoring and evaluation
- Acquired and permanently protected more than 1,000 acres of wild and working land, monitored easements
- Partnered with Title I schools and farmworker families to improve education for 1,000+ high schoolers per year
- Managed an outdoor classroom and walking trail that served more than 350 community members annually
- Planned and hosted between 30 and 40 workshops, trainings and fundraising events per year
- Received California State Parks Award for Excellence in partnership and strengthened working relationships with three schools, two school districts, four public agencies, six companies, eight nonprofit organizations and dozens of individual neighbors
- Managed and trained more than 400 volunteers and four interns per year to complete projects on time
- Created a new strategic initiative that aligned social objectives with the land trust's environmental goals
- Wrote and secured \$20K-\$50K in grants annually; managed timelines, budgets, and program evaluation

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park and Open Space District

Carmel Valley, CA

Vice President, Board of Directors

December 2014 – July 2019

- Advocated for open space connectivity, water security, and diversity, equity and inclusion in the outdoors
- Collaborated with public agencies to protect 13,000 acres of land and operate eight public parks
- Facilitated a five-year planning process with input from community groups and local agencies
- Directed a \$6.4M budget, 12 staff, park operations, planning and education programs; negotiated agreements
- Acquired an 85-acre former golf course which returned 185 acre feet of water to one of "America's Most Endangered Rivers", protected endangered species habitat and rare forest, and created new public parks

Sea Studios Foundation

Monterey, CA

On-Camera Host and Creator

January 2011 – January 2013

- Hosted a \$1.2M documentary film that showed on PBS's Nature series and in theaters across the U.S.
- Managed a crowdfunding campaign to offer 20 free film screenings to low-income schools; tasks included fundraising, recruitment, written and verbal communications, program management, budgeting, and reporting
- Created and hosted an online documentary series with over 2M views, spoke at 20 events across the US

Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program

Monterey, CA

Partnership Coordinator

June 2009 – May 2011

- Managed 180 restaurant and nonprofit partners across the US; this consortium improved awareness and procurement of ocean-friendly seafood for over 1M customers per year
- Developed nationally-recognized science communication tools for non-technical audiences
- Facilitated meetings for more than 400 partner staff annually to develop procurement policies

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Inherit Your Rights

Arusha, Tanzania

Communications Volunteer

January 2019 – April 2019

- Researched and wrote stories for a legal aid organization focused on property law and human rights

Citizens for Park and Open Space Preservation

Monterey, CA

Advocacy Chair

July 2016 – December 2016

- Managed a successful campaign to secure \$1.2M annually for local parks and open space with 71% voter approval, \$31K in campaign donations, and 80 endorsements from local leaders

Bay Area Wilderness Training

Oakland, CA

Wilderness Leadership Instructor

April 2007 – January 2009

- Facilitated 5-day retreats for 10-20 adult youth leaders at a time, teaching camping and group management skills

PUBLICATIONS

- "Putting Your Money Where Your DEI Statement Is," Land Trust Alliance Rally. Cleveland, OH, October 2021.
- Mueller, J.T., K. McConnell, P.B., Burow, K. Pofahl, A.A. Merdjanoff, and J. Farrell. 2021. "Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Rural America" Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 118(1): 2019378118.
- Colburn, L., Dziki, A., Lemle, K., & Pofahl, K. (2020, December). *The Natural and Working Lands Challenge In Review: 2018-2020*. United States Climate Alliance.
- Pofahl, K. (2020, October 16). *Remaking the West: A conversation with Justin Farrell about wealth and nature in Wyoming*. Yale Environment Review.
- Pofahl, K., & Sharif, H. (2020, August 26). *Development of a Feasibility Tool to Evaluate Grassbank Potential in Thunder Basin, Wyoming*. Ucross High Plains Stewardship Initiative.
- Pofahl, K. (2020, May 7). *Preventing Greenhouse Gas Pollution Means Protecting Grasslands in the Western Great Plains*. Yale Environment Review.

RELEVANT SKILLS

- **Language:** Spanish (Intermediate), Kiswahili (Basic)
- **Skills:** Firefighter Type 2; ArcGIS Pro; Tableau; R; Box; Open Standards; Microsoft Office Suite; Drivers license