

ASHLEY R. GRUPENHOFF

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Ecology

2023

University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

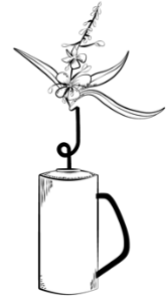
Dissertation: Changing Fire Regimes and Fire Management Strategies in California's Diverse Ecosystems

B.S. Biology

2016

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Minor: Mathematics



PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Wildland Fire Management

2024-present

Natural Resources Management and Environmental Sciences, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

On-call Burn Crew

2023-2024

The Nature Conservancy

Graduate Research Assistant

2019-2023

Environmental Science and Policy, University of California, Davis CA

Research Technician

2018-2019

University California, Santa Barbara and USDA Forest Service

Crew Lead

2017-2018

Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Santa Cruz Island, CA & Yasuni National Park, Ecuador

Environmental Technician

2017

ManTech International, Lompoc, CA

GRANTS & AWARDS

Current:

CAL FIRE Fire and Resources Assessment Program: "Central Coast Prescribed & Cultural Fire Research Program." (2026-2030) **\$803,449.93. Role: PI**

USDA Forest Service Thomas Fire Recovery Funds: "Reforestation Support across Southern California Forests." (2025-2030). **\$65,000. Role: PI**

California Air Resources Board: "Field & remote sensing data fusion to quantify the carbon implications of delayed forest reestablishment." (2025-2029). **\$699,837. Role: Co-PI**

USDA NIFA McIntire Stennis & CSU Agricultural Research Institute: "Building a toolbox for wildfire resilience: exploring novel fuel treatments to mitigate wildfire risk and improve ecosystem resilience in California's diverse landscapes." (2025-2028) **ARI: \$40,000, MS: \$65,000. Role: PI**

Completed:

CAL FIRE Forest Health Research Grant: "Plant community response to increased fire frequency in northern California chaparral." (2021-2023) **\$64,831. Role: PI**

Henry A. Jastro Research Fellowship. (2022) **\$2,530.**

Northern California Botanists Research Scholarship (2021). **\$1,000.**

Davis Botanical Society Student Grant (2021) **\$1,045**

CNPS Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant (2021) **\$1,000**

Mildred E. Mathias Graduate Student Research Grant (2019) **\$1,400**

PUBLICATIONS

- Gruppenhoff AR**, Putz T, Williams J, Estes B, Domenech R, Restaino J, & Safford HD. 2026. Short-term effects of single-entry prescribed fire in California's yellow-pine and mixed conifer forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* 613 (2026): 123771
- Allen JE, Benterou D, Brillon H, Cook KT, Klofas A, Ren X, Clements C, **Gruppenhoff AR**, Yang B, Wilkin KM. 2026. Reexamining the relationship between post-fire twig diameter and fire intensity in California's maritime chaparral to better assess fire severity. (*In press with Fire Ecology*).
- Domènech, Rut, Naimeh AM, Putz T, **Gruppenhoff AR**, Schlueter M, Boynton RM, Williams J, Sapsis DB, Restaino J, Tase N, Estes BL, Safford HD. 2026. California Prescribed Fire Monitoring Program: dataset 2019-2024. *Scientific Data* 13(1): 225.
- Gruppenhoff AR**, Young D, Barbato M, & Latimer, AL. 2025. Evaluating short-term effects of fuel treatments on fuel loading in western US dry conifer forests: A meta-analysis. *Forest Ecology & Management* 590:15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2025.122808>
- Gruppenhoff AR** & Safford HD. 2024. High fire frequency in California chaparral reduces postfire shrub regeneration and native plant diversity. *Ecosphere* 15:12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.70128>
- JN Williams, Quinn-Davidson L, Safford HD, **Gruppenhoff AR**, et al. 2023. Overcoming obstacles to prescribed fire in the North American Mediterranean Climate Zone. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2687>
- HD Safford, **Gruppenhoff AR**, Williams JN, & Restaino J. 2023. The California Prescribed Fire Monitoring Program. *Wildfire Magazine*.
- AR Gruppenhoff**, Molinari NM. 2021. Plant community response to fuel break construction and goat grazing in a southern California shrubland. *Fire Ecology* 17:28. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42408-021-00114-3>

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- Safford HD and **Gruppenhoff AR**. 2026. "Incorporating prescribed fire and real-time monitoring into wildfire management: the case of the Springs Fire." *NAFEW*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR**. 2026. "Increasing Prescribed Fire Effectiveness Through Workforce Development in California." *SAFE Connections*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR**. 2026. "Changing fire regimes and fire management strategies in California's diverse ecosystems." *UCSC Whole Earth Seminar Series*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR**. 2025. "Social and ecological implications of fire management strategies in California." *UCANR Tree School*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR**. 2025. "Changing fire regimes and fire management strategies in California's diverse ecosystems." *San Jose State University Biology Seminar*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR**. 2024. "A primer for wildfire management in California." *UC Cooperative Extension Forester Stewardship Workshop*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR**. 2024. "Frequent fire in northern California chaparral reduces post-fire shrub regeneration and native plant diversity." *CAL FIRE Forest Health Research Seminar*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR**. 2024. "Frequent fire in northern California chaparral reduces post-fire shrub regeneration and native plant diversity." *California Chaparral Symposium IV: Integrating science and stewardship to promote human and ecosystem resilience*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR**. 2024. "Exploring the influence of fuel treatments on fuel reduction and ecological objectives in dry conifer forests." *Society for American Forester Meeting*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR**. 2023. "Frequent fire in northern California chaparral reduces post-fire shrub regeneration and native plant diversity." *International Fire Ecology and Management Congress*. Oral presentation.

- Gruppenhoff AR.** 2023. “Fire Management strategies in California’s diverse ecosystems.” *International Fire Ecology and Management Congress*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR.** 2022. “The importance of prescribed fire monitoring for reaching long-term ecological goals.” *California Native Plant Society Conference*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR.** 2022. “Identifying a fire frequency tipping point in northern California chaparral.” *California Native Plant Society Conference*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR, Safford HD.** 2022. “Frequent fire in northern California chaparral reduces post-fire shrub regeneration and native plant diversity.” *International Association of Wildland Fire Conference*. Poster.
- Gruppenhoff AR.** 2021. “The effects of thinning on fire behavior and floral diversity at Valentine Reserve.” *CNPS Bristlecone General Meeting*. Oral presentation.
- Safford HD, Gruppenhoff AR.** 2020. “Fuels management and forest restoration in the Sierra Nevada: the case for active forest management on the Valentine Reserve.” *UCSB Natural Reserve System Seminar Series*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR.** 2020. “Springs Fire Case Study: The importance of prescribed burn monitoring for reaching long-term ecological goals.” *Natural Areas Conference*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR.** 2020. “Fire Ecology of the Santa Cruz Mountains.” *Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz Trail Academy mini-series*. Oral presentation.
- Gruppenhoff AR and Bulluck L.** 2016. “Reproductive Success and Survival of a Neotropical Migratory Songbird.” *North American Ornithological Conference, Washington D.C.* Poster.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>Instructor – Fire Ecology NR 307, Cal Poly SLO</i>	Winter 2026
<i>Instructor – Prescribed Fire Senior Project NR 471, Cal Poly SLO</i>	Fall 2025
<i>Instructor – Wildland Fire Control NR-204, Cal Poly SLO</i>	Winter, Spring 2024-2026
<i>Instructor – Forest Ecology NR-305, Cal Poly SLO</i>	Winter 2024, 2025
<i>Teaching Assistant - Environmental Analysis ESP001, UC Davis</i>	Fall 2023
<i>Guest Instructor - TERA Tactical Drills Training, Middletown Rancheria</i>	October 2023
<i>Guest Lecturer - FUERTE scholars field class, UCSB</i>	September 2022
<i>Co-Instructor - CA State Parks Prescribed Fire Monitoring training</i>	June 2022
<i>Guest Lecturer - Trees and Forests, PLS 144, UC Davis</i>	Fall 2021
<i>Teaching Assistant - Trees and Forests, PLS 144, UC Davis</i>	Fall 2021
<i>Teaching Assistant - Principles of Ecology & Evolution, Bis2B, UC Davis</i>	Spring 2020, 2021
<i>Trip leader and River Guide - VCU Outdoor Adventure Program</i>	June 2013- August 2016

STUDENT ADVISING

Graduate mentoring

- **Kalina Stork**, MS Thesis Advisor, “Examining the Effects of High Severity Wildfire and Invasive Grasses on Great Basin Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) Regeneration in Southern California,” Cal Poly SLO (2025-present)
- **Jannike Allen**, MS Thesis Committee Member, “Reexamining the relationship between post-fire twig diameter and fire intensity in California’s chaparral to better assess fire severity,” SJSU (2024-2025)
- **Jonathan Garcia**, MS Thesis Committee Member, “Evaluating Carbon Risk and Benefit Under Improved Forest Management Prescriptions in a California Mixed-Conifer Stand,” Cal Poly SLO (2025-2026)
- **Ena McKinney**, MS Project Advisor, “Impacts of Prescribed Fire Seasonality on Vegetation Structure and Diversity in California Central Coast Chaparral,” Cal Poly SLO (2024-2025)

- **Sam Balthazard**, MS Thesis Committee Member, “When Trees Disappear: Understory Successional Implications of Sudden Oak Death and Severe Wildfire in Big Sur, California,” Cal Poly SLO (2024-2025)

Undergraduate mentoring

- Garrett Lee, Senior Project Advisor, “Cal Poly Evacuation Plan,” Cal Poly SLO (2026)
- Baya Damien, Fire Ecology Lab Member, Cal Poly SLO (2025-2026)
- John Goettl, Fire Ecology Lab Member, Cal Poly SLO (2025-2026)
- CJ MacLaughlin, Fire Ecology Lab Member, “Prescribed fire impacts on fuel dynamics in chaparral,” Cal Poly SLO (2024-2026)
- Ollie Topper, Fire Ecology Lab Member, Cal Poly SLO (2024-2026)
- Ella Baley, Fire Ecology Lab Member, Cal Poly SLO (2024-2026)
- Tylor Westlund, Fire Ecology Lab Member, Cal Poly SLO (2024-2025)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Board member, SLO Fire Safe Council (2025-present)

Member, AFE Education Committee (2025-present)

Journal Referee: *Ecological Applications*, *Fire Ecology*, *The Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society*, *Madrono*, *Landscape Ecology*

Conference/workshop organization:

- *California Fire Science Consortium Fire Science Retreat 2026*
- *TNC Fire Effects Monitoring Workshop 2025*
- *Chaparral Symposium 2024*: Convened 200 scientists and managers to bring awareness to management in chaparral ecosystems

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

CAFES ISTII Search Committee Member - Plant Sciences Building (EEF).	2026
Member of Cal Poly SLO Campus Landscape Committee	2025-2026
Advisor for Fire Ecology and Wildfire Hazard Planning Minor	2025-2026
NRES TT Search Committee Member – WUI Fire Science (EEF)	2025-2026
NRES TT Search Committee Member – Sustainable Forest Management	2024-2025
Chair of Statistical Support Group for Ecologists, UC Davis	2022-2023
Co-chair of Diversity Outreach Subcommittee, UC Davis	2021-2023
DEI Task Force for the Graduate Group in Ecology, UC Davis	2020-2023
Co-chair of the Ecology Graduate Student Association, UC Davis	2020-2021