

MICHELLE KATUNA

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RESEARCH GOALS

Engage community-based, interdisciplinary, mixed methods to study ecological restoration collaborations between Tribal nations and non-Native actors in support of tribal sovereignty and Indigenous futures.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Pursuing PhD, Environmental Science, Policy, and Management

Berkeley, CA

Aug. 2023-present

Expected graduation: May 2028

M.S., Rangeland Management

Aug. 2022-May 2024

Complete

- Coursework, *selected*:
 - ESPM 186: Grassland and Woodland Management and Conservation
 - ESPM 278: Range Assessment
 - ESPM 290: Applied GIS for Graduate Research: Data Collection, Analysis, and Visualization
 - ESPM 116: Grassland and Woodland Ecology
 - ESPM 232: Indigenizing Cultural Resource Management
 - RRS 475: Advanced Study of Rangeland Plants (summer course with Cal State Humboldt Extension)
 - NATAMST 100: Native American Law
 - PH 142: Introduction to Probability and Statistics in Biology and Public Health.
- Teaching:
 - Fall 2023 and 2024 – Graduate Student Instructor (GSI), ESPM 6: Environmental Biology.
 - Spring 2023 – Graduate Student Instructor (GSI), ESPM C52/ NATAMST C52: History of Native American Land, Colonialism, and Heritage Preservation.
- Research:
 - Fall 2022 - Graduate Student Researcher (GSR), Dr. Peter Nelson, Indigenous Archaeology Lab.
 - Graduate Student Affiliate, Joseph A. Myers Center for Research on Native American Issues, Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, UC Berkeley.
- Community
 - Spring 2024 - Representative for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) Rangeland and Wildlife Division.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Summer Term, Great Books Program

Santa Fe, NM

May – Aug. 2018

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Berkeley, CA

B.S. Conservation & Resource Studies; GPA 3.87; CNR High Distinction Aug. 2011 – May 2015

- Coursework, *selected*:
 - INTEGBI 157LF: Ecosystems of California
 - ESPM 117: Urban Garden Ecosystems
 - ESPM 120: Soil Characteristics
 - PLANTBI 113: California Mushrooms
 - ESPM 134: Fire, Insects, and Diseases in Forest Ecosystems
 - GEOG 130: Food and the Environment
 - PLANTBI 11: Fungi, History, and Society
 - ESPM 50AC: Introduction to Culture and Natural Resource Management
 - ESPM 118: Agricultural Ecology
 - MATH 16A: Analytic Geometry and Calculus
 - CHEM 1A/1AL: General Chemistry and Lab
 - CHEM 3A/3AL: Chemical Structure and Reactivity and Organic Chemistry Lab
 - BIOLOGY 1B: General Biology
 - INTEGBI 95: Special Research Project in Biology 1B.
- Lab assistant in Dr. Ignacio Chapela's microbial ecology lab.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (MARIN RCD)

Tribal Collaboration Liaison

Agroecologist and Project Manager

Point Reyes Station, CA

July 2022 – Present

Jan. 2020 – July 2022

- Facilitate work with tribal staff and Sacred Sites Protection Committee including leading site visits, coordinating planning meetings, and drafting collaboration agreement documents.
- Planned, designed, implemented, and monitored ecological practices and managed projects on private agricultural lands, in collaboration with local landowners and District partners including local, regional, and federal agencies and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR). Drafted one carbon farm plan and designed four riparian restoration projects, including budgets.
- Conducted annual Residual Dry Matter (RDM) and invasive plant monitoring at Point Reyes National Seashore ranches.
- Managed \$740K in private, state, and federal grants for working lands.
- Hosted educational workshops and created materials (articles, guidance documents, website resources, and pamphlets) about ecological agricultural for local land managers.
- Facilitated recurring monthly meeting between Marin County agencies and organizations (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Point Reyes National Seashore, UC Cooperative Extension, Point Blue Conservation Science, and Marin Agricultural Land Trust) to coordinate regional conservation and restoration project implementation.
- Managed GIS data and mapping projects, including restructuring geodatabase, training staff on ArcPro, and creating uniform map templates and symbology.
- Presented regularly to Board of Directors in public meetings.
- Co-managed workplan for AmeriCorps (Grizzly Corps) fellow.

LD FORD, CONSULTANTS IN RANGELAND CONSERVATION SCIENCE

**Berkeley, CA
Summer 2023**

Range Ecologist

- Conducted vegetation species composition monitoring for public agency contracts.
- Cleaned and analyzed vegetation data, created maps on ArcPro, communicated with project partners and clients.
- Co-designed protocols for monitoring special status plant population (*Holocarpha macradenia*).

THE LAND TRUST OF NAPA COUNTY (LTNC)

**Napa, CA
Oct. 2018 – Dec. 2019**

Lands Project Assistant

- Worked with the Land Programs Manager, Staff Attorney, and Executive Director to support all aspects of land projects including: researching, drafting, and submitting grant applications (\$3M awarded); creating ArcGIS maps; drafting legal documents and contracts for conservation easement and fee-land acquisition projects; coordinating with landowners, title officers, and partners to close projects; monitoring conservation easement properties.

PETALUMA CITY SCHOOLS

**Petaluma, CA
Jan. – Oct. 2018**

Science Enrichment Facilitator and Substitute Teacher

- Worked with teachers and students (K-6 and high school) designing curriculum and teaching lessons to provide a natural science, hands-on component to Grant School Elementary science program and encourage in students inquiry and responsibility in caring for the natural world; substitute taught in elementary and high school classes.

ROOT DOWN FARM

**Pescadero, CA
Feb. – Nov. 2017**

Farm Assistant

- Daily feeding and pasture rotation of humanely and organically raised chickens, turkeys, ducks, and pigs on medium-scale livestock farm.
- Designed and implemented USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS's) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)-funded native pollinator hedgerow.
- Led school educational tour of farm for college students.

T.O. CATTLE COMPANY / MORRIS GRASSFED

**Paicines, CA
Jan. – Dec. 2016**

Ranch Hand

- Used cattle as primary land-management tool for grassland and oak woodland management of 7,000 acre ranch; assessed pastures, planned and tracked grazing rotations; observed and monitored results with Point Blue Conservation Science; built and maintained fences; herded by horse-back; presented work at Holistic Management International (HMI)'s annual conference; participated in Consensus facilitation training and wrote article for HMI's *In Practice* publication.

QUAIL HILL FARM, PECONIC LAND TRUST

**Amagansett, NY
June – Aug. 2014**

Farm employee

- Sustainably farmed thirty acres of diversified fruits and vegetables; led educational events for farm crew and public.

HERB PHARM

Intern

**Williams, OR
June – Aug. 2013**

- Propagated, cultivated, and harvested 150 species of medicinal herbs; received classes in plant identification, holistic medicine, and medicine-making.

GREEN STRING FARM

Apprentice

**Petaluma, CA
June – Sept. 2012**

- Worked on vegetable farm and received lessons in regenerative agriculture.

INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

POINT BLUE CONSERVATION SCIENCE

Volunteer for the Rangeland Monitoring Network (RMN)

**Sonoma County, CA
Spring 2022**

- Vegetation monitoring (relevé and line-point intercept transect) of species composition at grazed rangeland sites in Sonoma and Marin Counties.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS (NNIRR)

Intern

**Oakland, CA
Sept. 2011- Dec. 2012**

- Databased immigrant abuses, letters to the organization, and current events; researched immigrant and refugee policies for outreach materials to immigrant communities.

AMIGOS DE LAS AMERICAS

Volunteer

**Boca de Parita, Panama
June – Aug. 2009**

- Three-month Spanish immersion and community park restoration project.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

DEPARTMENTAL FELLOWSHIPS

Environmental Science, Policy, and Management Department, UC Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

- Spring 2025 – Colman Watershed Fellowship
- Spring 2024 – Continuing Fellowship.

JUSTICE OUTSIDE: RISING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP (RLF)

2022 Fellow

Oakland, CA

- Participant in 20-person cohort of mid-career leaders that are committed to effecting cultural change centered around social justice and racial equity in the outdoors. Completed small-group project and Justice Outside trainings including power and privilege, trauma-informed education, and strategic planning.

GRASSFED EXCHANGE HERD FELLOW

2016 Fellow

Perry, GA

- Competitive fellowship for showing promise in regenerative ranching. Fellowship supported my attendance to the annual Grassfed Exchange conference and established my place in a beginning to mid-career agrarian cohort.

ANNIE'S SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP

2014 Recipient

- Recipient of \$10,000 competitive scholarship for my undergraduate work in Sustainable Agriculture.

LEADERSHIP AWARD SCHOLAR

2011 Recipient

- Recognition by the U.C. Berkeley Leadership Award Scholars Association of my demonstrated innovative, initiative-driven leadership impacting my academic, work, and community environments.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

May 2023

Citation: Nelson et al. 2023. *Final Report: Spring 2023 Tribal Cultural Resource Survey of the Jack Kirk Estate Property, Mariposa, CA*. Report on file with the North Fork Mono Tribe.

"TENDING THE EDGES: THE BENEFITS OF HEDGEROWS ON BAY AREA WORKING LANDS" 2022

Technical educational pamphlet for Marin RCD land managers, partners, and public

- Available in print and online (<https://www.marinrcd.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TendingTheEdges.English.Reducedpdf.pdf>).

CENTERING EQUITY IN SOIL HEALTH – HEAR FROM PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD Nov. 2021

Panel hosted by California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

- Co-presented with Dr. Peter Nelson on tribal collaboration to an audience of RCD staff and District managers throughout the state.
- Panel not recorded.

MARIN CARBON FARMERS' FORUM

April 2021

Webinar

- Hosted forum for 19 Marin Carbon Farm Plan holders to share practical expertise, learn about funding opportunities, and discuss planting projects (hedgerows, windbreaks, silvopasture, riparian restoration).
- Webinar not recorded.

COMPOST APPLICATION TO RANGELANDS AND CROPLANDS

July 2020

Article for Sonoma-Marin Farm News periodical, Sonoma County Farm Bureau

- Available in print and online (https://www.marinrcd.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020.07_Farm-News_Compost-Application-to-Rangelands-Article.pdf).

MARIN COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP) UPDATE

May/June 2020

Presentation

- Collaborated with colleagues and partner organizations to collect carbon sequestration data and present summary to County of Marin to inform the Agricultural Chapter of the 2030 CAP.
- Presentation not recorded.

COMPOST APPLICATION TO RANGELANDS AND CROPLANDS

May 2020

Webinar

- Co-presented with Dr. Jeffrey Creque and Dr. Jonathan Watcher on the foundational science of compost application and carbon sequestration, local application recommendations, and guidelines of CDFA's Healthy Soils Incentives Program.
- Recorded webinar available online (<https://marinresourceconservationdistr.app.box.com/s/5uexg12suqfhj17wnoeexqn4j5eh ech>).

CRITICAL LAND LINKAGES VITAL FOR REGION'S HEALTH

April 2019

Article for Landowners' Newsletter, The Land Trust of Napa County

- Available in print and online (https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4j0d53tepra6a7bg1hwig/LTNC-Wildlife-Corridor-Article_March-2019.pdf?rlkey=k3jmowr34ra8olq2cij5du30n&dl=0).

HOW CONSENSUS BUILDING HELPS IMPROVE COMMUNICATION— CASE STUDY OF MORRIS GRASSFED BEEF

Article for In Practice publication, Holistic Management International (HMI)

Nov. 2018

- Available in print and online (https://issuu.com/hmi-in_practice/docs/182_hmi_newsletter_final_large/s/12756989).

COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (CARCD) JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI) COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

JEDI Committee and Charter Sub-Committee

June 2021 – August 2022

- Worked alongside statewide RCD staff and District managers to identify opportunities and actions to better recruit, retain, and support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Board and staff throughout the RCD network, and to ensure BIPOC community members are authentically seen by, valued in, and connected to our programs.

MARIN RCD TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Feb. 2021

Role: Agroecologist

- With experts from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Point Blue Conservation Science, and Marin RCD Board of Directors, evaluated and ranked 20 projects

across nine Marin farms to disburse \$75K in CA Wildlife Conservation Board funds for riparian restoration designs.

CERTIFICATIONS

CERTIFIED RANGELAND MANAGER (#M133)

July 2024

- Issued by the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management and California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID (WFA) AND CPR CERTIFIED

Valid through Feb 2026

FIREFIGHTER TYPE 2 (FFT2) + RED CARD

October 2022

- Obtained red card for 2023 season and FFT2 qualifications as part of US Forest Service Women in Wildfire Bootcamp at Apache Sitgreaves National Forest in Arizona. Successfully completed arduous pack test, and qualifying coursework including ICS-100, IS-100 (Intro to ICS), IS-700 (NIMS), S-110 (Basic Wildland Fire), S-130 (Firefighter Training), S-190 (Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior), and L-180 (Human Factors in Wildland Fire). Field trained and practiced: employing LCES; using hand tools to cut fireline; heavy equipment safety and operation (type 3 and 6 engines, dozers, aviation); prescribed fire burning patterns and drip torch operation; communicating instructions to crew; hose lays; weather reading; fire shelter deployment; utilization of the Medical Incident Report.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION: CARBON FARM PLANNING CURRICULM TRAINING **June 2021**

- Completed four-week training for technical assistance providers led by the Carbon Cycle Institute; The Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems at CA State University, Chico; and CO State University, COMET Farm.

CONTINUED EDUCATION

- Indigenous Co-Stewardship of Public Lands: Lessons for the Future, hosted by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (2024).
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Workshop: California Plant Families (3-day workshop, August 8-10, 2023) - Field, lecture, and dissecting scope immersion in study of Apiaceae, Asteraceae, Brassicaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Cyperaceae, Ericaceae, Fabaceae, Lamiaceae, Onagraceae, Orobanchaceae, Poaceae, Plantaginaceae, Polemoniaceae, Polygonaceae, and Rosaceae.
- California Native Grass Association (CNGA's) Identifying and Appreciating the Native and Naturalized Grasses of California (one day workshop, 2023).
- Central Coast Rangeland Coalition Spring Meeting (2023).
- California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management (Cal-Pac SRM) Conference, Waimea, Hawaii (2022).
- Nikki Silvestri Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training for Sonoma/Marin RCD Staff (2021).
- Peter Nelson Tribal Relations Training for North Coast RCDs (2021).
- Richard King and Peter Donovan Workshop on Soil Health, Sonoma County (2020).
- Chico State Carbon Planning Workshop (2020).

- Esri Courses: ArcPro Essential Workflows and ArcGIS II Essential Workflows (2020 and 2019)
- California Council of Land Trusts (CCLT) Conservation Law Forum (2019) – a roundtable discussion among attorneys with land trusts, state and regional agencies and firms to learn, discuss and help shape conservation law in California.
- U.C. Davis Fundamentals of ArcGIS online course (2019).
- Living With Fire Symposium, Sonoma State University (2018).
- Soil Health Workshop with Christine Jones, Paicines Ranch (2017).
- Consensus Facilitation Workshop with Jeff Goebel, Mendocino County (2017).
- Low-Stress Livestock Handling School with Steve Cote and Roger Ingram, UC Agricultural and Natural Resources (UCANR), Sierra Research and Extension Center (2016).
- Planned Grazing Workshop, Paicines Ranch (2016).
- Ranching for Profit Workshop, TomKat Ranch (2016) – financial planning workshop for production ranchers/grazers.
- Grassfed Exchange Conference (2016).

OTHER SKILLS

- Field experience in tribal cultural resource surveying (see co-authored publication above).
- Proficient in ArcGIS Map and Pro, GPS Garmin, Google Pro.
- Knowledge and practice of vegetation monitoring techniques including transects, relevé, and Residual Dry Matter (RDM) protocols.
- Proficient in French (college coursework and studied abroad for one year in Belgium).
- Proficient in Spanish (high school AP Spanish and three-month immersion in Panama).