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**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA**

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**Undergraduate Studies:**

B.A., Economics & Biology, Williams College, *cum laude*, 2007

**Graduate Studies:**

University of California, Santa Barbara, 2012 to present  
Ph.D. Candidate in: Economics  
Dissertation Title: “*Essays on the economics and politics of wildfire management*”  
Expected Completion Date: June 2018

**References:**

Professor Andrew Plantinga  
2400 Bren Hall  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106  
805-893-7612, [plantinga@ucsb.edu](mailto:plantinga@ucsb.edu)

Professor Olivier Deschenes  
2127 North Hall  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106  
805-893-5617, [olivier@econ.ucsb.edu](mailto:olivier@econ.ucsb.edu)

Professor Sarah Anderson  
2400 Bren Hall  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106  
805-893-5886, [sanderson@bren.ucsb.edu](mailto:sanderson@bren.ucsb.edu)

University of Montana, 2009-2010

M.S. in: Resource Conservation

Thesis Title: “*Evaluation of Social Preferences for Invasive Weed Management in the Interior Pacific Northwest*”

**Research and Teaching Fields:** Environmental & Resource Economics, Applied Econometrics, Public Economics, Political Economy

**Teaching Experience:**

Spring 2017                      Economics 10A: Intermediate Microeconomics, teaching assistant for  
Professor Jon Hartman

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|---------------------------|--|
| Fall 2016                 | Economics 140A: Introduction to Econometrics I, teaching assistant for Professor Dick Startz   |
| Winter & Spring 2016      | Economics 140B: Introduction to Econometrics II, teaching assistant for Professors Olivier Deschenes & Heather Royer                     |
| Fall 2015                 | Economics 140A: Introduction to Econometrics I, teaching assistant for Professor Dick Startz   |
| Winter 2015 & Spring 2015 | Economics 140A: Introduction to Econometrics I, teaching assistant for student instructors Corey White & Austin Jones                    |
| Fall 2014                 | Economics 10A: Intermediate Microeconomics, teaching assistant for Professor Jon Hartman   |
| Spring 2014               | Statistics and Applied Probability 5E: Statistics for Economics, teaching assistant for Professor Vasudevan Mangalam                     |
| Fall 2013 & Winter 2014   | Economics 1: Principles of Microeconomics, University of California, Santa Barbara, teaching assistant for Professor Jon Sonstelie       |
| Spring 2013               | Statistics and Applied Probability 5E: Statistics with Economics and Business Applications, teaching assistant for Professor Travis Loux |
| Fall 2012 & Winter 2013   | Economics 1: Principles of Microeconomics, University of California, Santa Barbara, teaching assistant for Professor Jon Sonstelie       |
| January 2012              | Technical Fire Management: Financial Forest Administration, Washington Institute, Duvall, Washington, adjunct instructor                 |
| Autumn 2011               | Forest Operations and Project Planning, University of Montana, adjunct instructor with Prof. Beth Dodson                                 |
| Spring 2011               | Forest and Environmental Economics, University of Montana adjunct instructor   |

#### **Research Experience and Other Employment:**

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| 2015-2017 | Earth Research Institute, Graduate Student Researcher                 |
| 2011-2012 | US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, Research Assistant |
| 2011-2012 | US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, Research Assistant |
| 2009-2010 | University of Montana, Research Assistant                             |

#### **Professional Activities:**

Presenter, Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, September 2017  
 Presenter, University of Colorado Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, September 2017  
 Presenter, Annual Conference of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, June 2016  
 Discussant, Searle Workshop, The Politics and Economics of Wildfire Policy, October 2014

#### **Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

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| 2017      | Summer Fellowship, Earth Research Institute, University of California, Santa Barbara  |
| 2016      | Paul A. Sabatier Best Conference Paper Award, awarded by the Science, Technology, & Environmental section of the American Political Science Association |
| 2016      | Summer Fellowship, Earth Research Institute, University of California, Santa Barbara  |
| 2014-2015 | Jennifer Jo Williamson Fellowship, Department of Economics University of California, Santa Barbara  |

### **Publications:**

Hand, M.S., **Wibbenmeyer, M.**, Calkin, D.E., Thompson, M.P. (2015) Risk preferences, probability weighting, and strategy tradeoffs in wildfire management. *Risk Analysis* 35(10) 1976-1891.

**Wibbenmeyer, M.**, Hand, M.S., Calkin, D.E., Venn, T.J., Thompson, M.P. (2013) Risk preferences in strategic wildfire decision making: a choice experiment with US wildfire managers. *Risk Analysis* 33(6) 1021-1037.

Calkin, D.E., Venn, T.J., **Wibbenmeyer, M.**, Thompson, M.P. (2012) Estimating wildland fire managers' preferences toward competing strategic suppression objectives. *International Journal of Wildland Fire* 22(2) 212-222.

### **Research Papers:**

“Burning down the house: Wildfire and the benefits of natural disaster mitigation” ([Job Market Paper](#))

What are the benefits of mitigating natural disasters? While a large literature investigates the costs of natural disasters, the benefits of disaster mitigation are relatively unknown. In part, this may be because of the challenge of identifying an appropriate counterfactual. This paper examines benefits of wildfire mitigation, a long-running form of natural disaster mitigation, using boundaries of historical wildfires within the western U.S. To estimate counterfactual wildfire outcomes, I adopt a two-step strategy. In the first step, I make use of outputs from a state-of-the-art wildfire simulation model, as well as spatial data describing at-risk assets across the landscape. Within a novel spatial duration model, I use these data to estimate the relative contributions of fire suppression effort and natural factors to the probability a wildfire will be extinguished. In the second step, results from the model of fire extinction probabilities are used to estimate predicted fire spread with and without suppression effort, and these probabilities are used to estimate expected avoided structure losses due to wildfire suppression. I find that, at least in the short-run, wildfire suppression exceeds its cost.

“Salience and the government provision of public goods” with Sarah Anderson and Andrew Plantinga

This paper examines the consequences of salience for the government provision of public goods. Salience is a common behavioral bias whereby people's attention is drawn to salient features of a decision problem, leading them to overweight prominent information in subsequent judgments. We analyze the case in which the public's demand for the good is distorted by salient events, and explore how salience influences public good allocation and efficiency. Theoretical predictions regarding public good allocation are ambiguous and depend on the magnitude of the change in payoffs and the extent of salience effects. We test whether salience increases or decreases allocation of government projects to reduce wildfire severity near wildland-adjacent communities. Even though the occurrence of a wildfire likely reduces the severity of future fires in the same area, it may increase the likelihood that fuels management projects are placed nearby if wildfire events strongly increase the salience of losses under future fires. We find strong evidence that the salience effects increase the likelihood of fuels management projects, and use robustness checks to eliminate competing explanations for our results. Our salience framework may also offer insights into government responses to terrorism, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and environmental catastrophes.

“Salience and (mal-)adaptive responses to climate-change” with Sarah Anderson, Ryan Bart, Maureen Kennedy, Andrew MacDonald, Max Moritz, Andrew Plantinga, Christina Tague, and Ethan Turpin