



CNAES
HQP Research & Collaborative Exchange
Funding
Visit report

1. Exchange information

Visitor: **Tanya Gallagher, PhD Candidate, University of British Columbia, CNAES Project II-3**

Supervisor: Sarah Gergel

Conference: **20th annual Society for Conservation GIS Annual Meeting, Monterey, California, July 16 – 19, 2017**

2. Objective/Purpose

To attend and present my research paper “Using historical aerial photography to identify landscape legacies: Is there a signal of historical land use in trans-border groundwater aquifers?” at the 20th annual Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS) meeting in Monterey, California. SCGIS is a non-profit organization that assists conservationists worldwide in using GIS through communication, networking, scholarships, and training.

3. Description of the visit

At the 20th Annual SCGIS meeting, I had the opportunity to present my most recent research on landscape legacies of nitrate in the Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer in the Water Quality and Image Analysis session. During my presentation, the room was nearly full and based on the discussion that followed, several of those in attendance showed genuine interest in my project and integrating ideas from my trans-boundary research into their own work. Being a small meeting with an active online user group and email listserv, I was able to meet and interact with academics, government and NGO scientists, and people new to the GIS community. The meeting had a diverse range of sessions, and the relatively small size of the meeting (~300 people) allowed for half hour talks with ample time for questions and post-presentation discussions.

The SCGIS community has very unique (and in my opinion wonderful) meeting style in that ample networking and social activities are built into the agenda. Those of us in attendance and staying on the Asilomar conference grounds shared meals three times a day in the conference cafeteria hall. These shared meals prompted organic discussions of research and career goals and allowed more time for real conversations to be had, conversations that all too often are not established at larger conferences. Another distinctive aspect of this meeting is the International Scholars Program. Nearly 20 individuals from around the globe were trained in their home country and flown to Monterey to present their research to the SCGIS community. These scholars added a truly international component to the conference and their inputs and discussion points during the sessions were diverse and welcomed.

Overall, I would like to thank the CNAES Science Committee for allowing me this opportunity to attend the SCGIS conference. It was a wonderful opportunity to present my research to an international and interdisciplinary community and to network with potential future collaborators and/or employers. Please see the attached photo of me with a bust of John Steinbeck in downtown Monterey on one of our social outings.

