

# Travis M. Williams

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## Education

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### **M.A. University of Colorado, Geography**

Boulder, CO

Aug 2018

- Focus: Climate Risk Management, Drought, Research, Geospatial Modeling.
- Advisors: William R. Travis, Stefan Leyk, Barabara P. Battenfield
- Thesis: *Drought Index-Based Insurance for the US Cattle Ranching Industry*
- Cumulative GPA: 3.90

### **B.S. Florida State University, Geography**

Tallahassee, FL

Aug 2009

- Focus: GIS, Ecology, French
- Minors: Biology, French
- Cumulative GPA: 3.39

## Experience

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### **National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Researcher III - Geospatial Data Science**

Golden, CO

Nov 2019 – Present

My primary role at NREL is centered on the Renewable Energy Potential Model (reV). I have been the technical lead on this model since 2020 (shortly after it was open-sourced). Secondary roles at NREL include the development of other research models, data management, analysis, research, writing, and visualization for energy systems research projects.

- Designing analysis projects, collecting or building input data, and running models on NREL HPC systems
- Manage the reV model's maintenance budget
- Manage the reV models input data collection, filesystem, and compute environment on the HPC
- Train employees on reV and HPC
- Support and help existing users
- Interface with clients who want to use it with their own infrastructure
- Interface with the software developers (and periodically contribute to the software)

### **University of Colorado - Geography Dept., Research Assistant/Visiting Researcher**

Boulder, CO

Jan 2017 – Nov 2019

Worked with a group called Earth Lab studying drought, fire, and agriculture.

- Co-authored literature review publication on adaptive ranching practices and drought information.
- Applied econometric methods to discover climate signals in a large market data set.
- Redesigned an existing rainfall insurance system to better manage drought-related agricultural risks.
- Developed and deployed interactive online risk management and decision-making tools.
- Generated descriptive charts, maps, and other graphical products.
- Built the Python package implementing the FIRED event delineation algorithm (firedpy)

## **University of Colorado - Geography Dept., Teaching Assistant**

Boulder, CO  
Aug 2016 – Dec 2017

Taught recitations for groups of 25-30 students.

- Geography of the Environment and Society & World Geography
- Topics included Human-Earth system interactions, theories of resource management, and natural hazard mitigation.
- Combination of content review, group activity, and grading.
- Focused on connecting course content with current events and engaging students in discussion.
- Features of 5 major world regions with a particular focus on culture and social injustice.

## **Southern Illinois University - Plant, Soil, & Ag. Systems Dept., Research Assistant**

Carbondale, IL  
Apr 2014 – May 2016

Soil sampling, laboratory tests, GIS analysis, research, & writing.

- Collected plant tissue and soil samples with Truck Mounted Soil Probe, SPAD and other devices.
- Performed KCL extractions and other laboratory tests for agricultural chemicals content.
- Collected and interpreted climate data and site information for a large meta-analysis of high-yield fertilizer studies across the Midwest using various GIS programs.
- Used ArcGIS and SAS to perform spatial analysis into the performance of a no-till and cover crop study concurrent with extensive research into the practices.


## **Projects**

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### **Drought Index Portal (DrIP)**

Boulder, CO  
Jan 2017 – Nov 2019

An interactive data portal for comparing drought indices and exploring historical drought in the United States.

- <https://droughtindexportal.colorado.edu> 
- Interactive map and timeseries compares 42 different indicators of drought.
- Flexible enough to compare any two drought indices at any point, across any time period since 1900 or one index at multiple points and time periods.
- Allows user to easily identify the severity and geographic extent worse historical droughts in the US to compare with current conditions.
- This is definitely not an shining example of robust web-site design, but it does the job and was built with only about three years of experience in programming.

### **reView**

Golden, CO  
Jan 2021 – Present

Another interactive data portal, this time to review outputs from the Renewable Energy Potential Model (reV).

- Renders spatial, statistical, and temporal outputs from reV model runs.
- Links location and graph visualization

## **Skills**

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**GIS Interfaces:** QGIS, ArcMap, GRASS, & DIVA GIS

**Programming Languages:** Python, R, SQL, Bash, HTML

**Geospatial Data Tools:** Geospatial Data Abstraction Library (GDAL), Rasdaman, PostGIS

**Research & Data Analysis:** Geospatial Analysis, Renewable Energy Technical Potential Modeling, Natural Hazards and Insurance (particularly drought), Soil Science, Econometrics

**Etc:** SLURM Job Scheduling, Linux, Blender, OBS-Studio, General Cartography, some experience writing and compiling C/C++ code

## Publications

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**Managing climate risks on the ranch with limited drought information** 02/22/2018

Trisha Shrum, William Travis, Travis Williams, and Evan Lih

Climate Risk Management 20, 11-26

[www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212096317301407?via%3Dihub](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212096317301407?via%3Dihub) [↗](#)

**Drought Index-based Insurance for the US Cattle Ranching Industry** 08/15/2018

Travis Williams

University of Colorado - Dissertations and Theses: 10843790

[www.proquest.com/openview/85fc8e0e239dd79f9bcf646536cb338d/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750](http://www.proquest.com/openview/85fc8e0e239dd79f9bcf646536cb338d/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750) [↗](#)

**Evaluating Alternative Drought Indicators in a Weather Index Insurance Instrument** 06/01/2019

Travis Williams and William Travis

American Meteorological Society: Weather, Climate, and Society 11(3), 629-649

[doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-18-0107.1](https://doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-18-0107.1) [↗](#)

**FIRED (Fire Events Delineation): An Open, Flexible Algorithm and Database of US Fire Events Derived from the MODIS Burned Area Product (2001–2019)** 10/24/2020

Jennifer Balch, Lise St. Denis, Adam Mahood, Nathan Mietkiewicz, Travis Williams, Joe McGlinchy, and Maxwell Cook

Remote Sensing 12(21), 3498

[doi.org/10.3390/rs12213498](https://doi.org/10.3390/rs12213498) [↗](#)

**Land Use and Turbine Technology Influences on Wind Potential in the United States** 05/15/2021

Anthony Lopez, Trieu Mai, Eric Lantz, Dylan Harrison-Atlas, Travis Williams, and Galen Maclaurin

Energy 223, 210044

[doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2021.120044](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2021.120044) [↗](#)

**The Renewable Energy Potential (reV) Model: A Geospatial Platform for Technical Potential and Supply Curve Modeling** 06/01/2021

Galen Maclaurin, Nick Grue, Anthony Lopez, Donna Heimiller, Michael Rossol, Grant Buster, and Travis Williams

National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A20-73067

[docs.nrel.gov/docs/fy19osti/73067.pdf](https://docs.nrel.gov/docs/fy19osti/73067.pdf) [↗](#)

**2021 Standard Scenarios Report: A U.S. Electricity Sector Outlook** 11/01/2021

Wesley Cole, J. Carag, Maxwell Brown, Patrick Brown, Stuart Cohen, Kelly Eurek, Will Frazier, Pieter Gagnon, Nick

Grue, Jonathan Ho, Anthony Lopez, Trieu Mai, Matthew Mowers, Caitlin Murphy, Brian Sergi, Dan Steinberg, and

Travis Williams

National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A40-80641

[doi.org/10.2172/1834042](https://doi.org/10.2172/1834042) [↗](#)

- Turbine Scale and Siting Considerations in Wind Plant Layout Optimization and Implications for Capacity Density** 03/07/2022  
Andrew Stanley, Owen Roberts, Anthony Lopez, Travis Williams, and Aaron Barker  
Energy Reports 8, 3507-3525  
[doi.org/10.1016/j.egyr.2022.02.226](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.egyr.2022.02.226)
- National-Scale Impacts on Wind Energy Production under Curtailment Scenarios to Reduce Bat Fatalities** 05/24/2022  
Galen Maclaurin, Cris Hein, Travis Williams, Owen Roberts, Eric Lantz, Grant Buster, and Anthony Lopez  
Wind Energy 25(9)  
[doi.org/10.1002/we.2741](https://doi.org/10.1002/we.2741)
- Wind Energy Costs in Puerto Rico Through 2035** 09/01/2022  
Patrick Duffy, Gabriel Zuckerman, Travis Williams, Alicia Key, Luis Martinez-Tossas, Owen Roberts, Nina Choquette, Jaemo Yang, Haiku Sky, and Nate Blair  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A40-83434  
[doi.org/10.2172/1891213](https://doi.org/10.2172/1891213)
- Exploring the Impact of Near-Term Innovations on the Technical Potential of Land-Based Wind Energy** 03/01/2023  
Owen Roberts, Travis Williams, Anthony Lopez, Galen Maclaurin, and Annika Eberle  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-500-81664  
[doi.org/10.2172/1963405](https://doi.org/10.2172/1963405)
- Impacts of Siting Considerations on Offshore Wind Technical Potential in the United States** 07/01/2023  
Gabriel Zuckerman, Anthony Lopez, Travis Williams, Rebecca Green, and Grant Buster  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A40-85088  
[doi.org/10.2172/1989233](https://doi.org/10.2172/1989233)
- Impact of Siting Ordinances on Land Availability for Wind and Solar Development** 08/03/2023  
Anthony Lopez, Wesley Cole, Brian Sergi, Aaron Levine, Jesse Carey, Cailee Mangan, Trieu Mai, Travis Williams, Pavlo Pinchuk, and Jianyu Gu  
Nature Energy 8, 1024-1043  
[doi.org/10.1038/s41560-023-01319-3](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41560-023-01319-3)
- Estimating National-Scale Wind Potential Using Spatially Explicit Turbine Layout Optimization** 10/01/2023  
Anthony Lopez, P. J. Stanley, Owen Roberts, Trieu Mai, Travis Williams, Pavlo Pinchuk, Grant Buster, and Eric Lantz  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A20-85075  
[doi.org/10.2172/2203429](https://doi.org/10.2172/2203429)
- Solar Photovoltaics and Land-Based Wind Technical Potential and Supply Curves for the Contiguous United States: 2023 Edition** 01/07/2024  
Anthony Lopez, Pavlo Pinchuk, Michael Gleason, Wesley Cole, Trieu Mai, Travis Williams, Owen Roberts, Marie Rivers, Mike Bannister, Sophie-Min Thomson, Gabe Zuckerman, Brian Sergi  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A20-87843  
[doi.org/10.2172/2283517](https://doi.org/10.2172/2283517)

**Renewable Energy Technical Potential and Supply Curves for the Contiguous United States: 2024 Edition**

01/07/2024

Anthony Lopez, Gabriel Zuckerman, Pavlo Pinchuk, Michael Gleason, Marie Rivers, Owen Roberts, Travis Williams, Donna Heimiller, Sophie-Min Thomson, Trieu Mai, and Wesley Cole  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A20-91900  
[doi.org/10.2172/2500362](https://doi.org/10.2172/2500362)

**Incorporating Wind Turbine Choice in High-Resolution Geospatial Supply Curve and Capacity Expansion Models**

01/15/2024

Annika Eberle, Trieu Mai, Owen Roberts, Travis Williams, Pavlo Pinchuk, Anthony Lopez, Matthew Mowers, Joseph Mowers, Tyler Stehly, and Eric Lantz  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A20-87161  
[doi.org/10.2172/2283923](https://doi.org/10.2172/2283923)

**2023 Standard Scenarios Report: A U.S. Electricity Sector Outlook**

01/15/2024

Pieter Gagnon, An Pham, Wesley Cole, Sarah Awara, Anne Barlas, Maxwell Brown, Patrick Brown, Vincent Carag, Stuart Cohen, Anne Hamilton, Jonathan Ho, Sarah Inskeep, Akash Karmakar, Luke Lavin, Anthony Lopez, Trieu Mai, Joseph Mowers, Matthew Mowers, Caitlin Murphy, Paul Pinchuk, Anna Schleifer, Brian Sergi, Daniel Steinberg, and Travis Williams  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A20-87724  
[doi.org/10.2172/2274777](https://doi.org/10.2172/2274777)

**Puerto Rico Grid Resilience and Transitions to 100% Renewable Energy Study (PR100): Final Report**

03/01/2024

Murali Baggu, Robin Burton, Nate Blair, Manajit Sengupta, Tom Harris, Clayton Barrows, Haiku Sky, Vahan Gevorgian, Jeremy Keen, Elena Smith, Mike Campton, Sushmita Jena, Jaemo Yang, Travis Williams, Paritosh Das, James Elsworth, Prateek Joshi, Cameron Weiner, James Morris, Joseph McKinsey, Surya Chandan Dhulipala, Sam Molnar, Weihang Yan, Pranav Sharma, Wenbo Wang, Aadil Latif, Daniel Thom, Sourabh Dalvi, Ian Baring-Gould, Matthew Lave, Amanda Wachtel, C. Birk Jones, Emily Moog, Andrea Mammoli, Richard Garrett, Thad Haines, Will Vining, Cody Newlun, Olga Hart, Marcelo Elizondo, Xiaoyuan Fan, Patrick Maloney, Alok Bharati, Bharat Vyakaranam, Vishvas Chalishazar, Patrick Royer, Fernando Bereta dos Reis, Xue (Michelle) Li, Kaveri Mahapatra, Jeff Dagle, Xinda Ke, Meng Zhao, Orestis Vasios, Tycko Franklin, Michael Abdelmalak, Kishan Guddanti, Samrat Acharya, Marcos Cruz, Pavel Etingov, Chuan Qin, Juan Carlos Bedoya, Tony Nguyen, Sraddhanjali Bhadra, Ahmad Tbaileh, Laura Ward, Victoria Sinnott, Pablo Mendez-Curbelo, Peter Cappers, Jeff Deason, Margaret Pigman, Lawrence Paul Lewis, John T. Murphy, Tomaz Kobayashi-Carvalhaes, Melanie Bennett, Yilu Liu, Harvey Cutler, Martin Shields, Hwayoung Jeon, and Michele Chait  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A20-88384  
[doi.org/10.2172/2335361](https://doi.org/10.2172/2335361)

**System-cost-minimizing deployment of PV-wind hybrids in low-carbon U.S. power systems**

07/01/2024

Patrick Brown, Travis Williams, Maxwell Brown, and Caitlin Murphy  
Applied Energy 365, 123151  
[doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2024.123151](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2024.123151)

**The interplay of future solar energy, land cover change, and their projected impacts on natural lands and croplands in the US**

10/15/2024

Jay Diffendorfer, Brian Sergi, Anthony Lopez, Travis Williams, Michael Gleason, Zach Ancona, Wesley Cole  
Science of the Total Environment 947, 173872  
[doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2024.173872](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2024.173872)

Grant Buster, Owen Roberts, Travis Williams, and Tyler Stehly  
Nature Energy

## Extracurricular Activities

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- Building personal computers. Aside from the joy of assembling a complex machine and getting it to work, I've found it helps me to understand computer systems from a bottom-up perspective. I believe this provides directly relevant experience for the technical aspects of my profession.
- Experimenting and tinkering with Linux operating systems. When I learned that there are desktop environments for Linux in 2017 (having only seen it on cloud servers), I abruptly adopted it as my personal OS of choice and have been an enthusiast ever since. This, and graduate school in general, also introduced me to the free software movement and the utility of open-source software.