

Meet the Scientists

**Katherine Kelsey – Assistant Professor
at the University of Colorado**

Q: What is your current position and the focus of your study?

Kathy studies the effects of climate change on the landscape. Her current study focuses on researching the effects of climate change in the Yukon Kuskokwim River Delta in western Alaska. Specifically, she is investigating how the flood caused by the remnants of Typhoon Murbock in fall 2022 impacts the local ecosystem, including plant growth, flowering patterns, and greenhouse gas emissions. She is tracking plants such as salmonberries, dwarf birch, and Labrador tea to understand how flooding affects their growth and distribution.



Q: Why did you become a scientist?

Kathy became a scientist because of her love for the outdoors and her interest in understanding how humans impact the landscape and how climate change can be addressed.

Q: Can you describe what your daily routine is

Q: What surprised you the most about working in Alaska?

Q: Do you have any aspects of your identity that you feel are underrepresented in STEM or society?

Q: What is an obstacle you faced related to/during your STEM career?

Q: What are hobbies and/or interests that you have outside of your research?

Q: What is your favorite thing about camping?

Q: How did you get into this hobby?

Q: Why is it important for scientists to have hobbies?

Q: What advice do you have for aspiring biologists?