Rutherford (Rud) V. Platt

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EDUCATION

University of Colorado at Boulder, Department of Geography, Boulder, Colorado.
Ph.D., August 2004.

University of Colorado at Boulder, Department of Geography, Boulder, Colorado.
M.A., May 2001.

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.
A.B., Economics and Environmental Studies, 1996.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT & AFFILIATIONS

Professor, Department of Environmental Studies. Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. 2017-present.

Visiting Scholar, CIRES Earth Lab, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 2022-2023.

Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Studies. Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. 2010-2017.

Visiting Scholar, Harvard Center for Geographic Analysis. Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 2015-2016.

Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Studies. Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. 2004-2010.

PUBLICATIONS

Platt, Rutherford, T. Chapman, J. Balch. 2024. Fire refugia are robust across Western US forested ecoregions. Environmental Research Letters. 19 014044.

Crowley, M.A., Stuhlmacher, M., Trochim, E.D., Van Den Hoek, J., Pasquarella, V.J., Szeto, S.H., Howarth, J.T., Platt, R.,…Saah, D.S. 2023. Pillars of Cloud-Based Earth Observation Science Education. *AGU Advances*, *4*(4), e2023AV000894. [Selected as an 'Editor's Highlight' by AGU Advances]

Ogra, Monica, U. Manral, R. Platt, R. Badola, L. Butcher*. 2020. Local perceptions of change in climate and agroecosystems in the Indian Himalayas: A case study of the Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary Landscape. Applied Geography. 125: 102339.

Platt, Rutherford, M. Ogra, N. Kisak*, U. Manral, R. Badola. 2020. Climate change perceptions, data, and adaptation in the Garhwal Himalayas of India. Climate and Development, DOI: 10.1080/17565529.2020.172406.

Koehler, K., J.H. Ellis, J.A. Casey, D. Manthos, K.Bandee-Roche, R.V. Platt, B.S. Schwartz. 2018. Exposure Assessment Using Secondary Data Sources in Unconventional Natural Gas Development and Health Studies. Environmental Science & Technology. 52(10): 6061-6069.

Edelson, M.*, S. Monani, R.V. Platt. 2018. Migrant farmworkers' perceptions of pesticide risk exposure in Adams County, Pennsylvania: A cultural risk assessment. Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development. 8(1).

Platt, R.V., D. Manthos, J. Amos. 2018. Estimating the Creation and Removal Date of Fracking Ponds Using Trend Analysis of Landsat Imagery. Environmental Management. 61: 310-320.

Platt, R.V., M.V. Ogra, R. Badola, S.A. Hussain. 2016. Conservation-induced resettlement as a driver of land use change in India: An object-based trend analysis. Applied Geography. 69:75-86.

Platt, R.V. 2014. Wildfire hazard in the home ignition zone: An object-oriented analysis integrating LiDAR and VHR Satellite Imagery. Applied Geography. 51: 108-117.

Sherriff, R.L., R. Platt, T.T. Veblen, T.L. Schoennagel, M.H. Gartner. 2014. Historical, Observed, and Modeled Wildfire Severity in Montane Forests of the Colorado Front Range. PLOS ONE. 9(9): e106971.

Commito, J.A., A.E. Commito, R.V. Platt, B.M. Grupe*, W.E. Dow*, N.J. Gownaris*, K.A. Reeves*, and A.M. Vissichelli*. 2014. Recruitment facilitation and spatial pattern formation in soft-bottom mussel beds. Ecosphere. 5(12): 1-26.

Walter*, J.A. and R.V. Platt. 2013. Multi-temporal analysis reveals that predictors of mountain pine beetle infestation change during outbreak cycles. Forest Ecology and Management. 302: 308-318.

Platt, R.V. 2012. Mapping settlements in the wildland urban interface: a decision tree approach. Professional Geographer. 64(2): 262-275.

Platt, R.V., T. Schoennagel, T.T Veblen, R.L. Sherriff. 2011. Modeling wildfire potential in residential parcels: a case study of the north-central Colorado Front Range. Landscape and Urban Planning. 102: 117-126.

Platt, R.V. 2010. The wildland-urban interface: evaluating the definition effect. Journal of Forestry. 108(1): 9-15.

Platt, R.V. and T. Schoennagel. 2009. An object-oriented approach to assessing changes in tree cover in the Colorado Front Range 1938-1999. Forest Ecology and Management. 258: 1342-1349.

Platt, R.V., T.T. Veblen, R.L. Sherriff. 2008. A spatial model of mechanical thinning location and forest management outcomes in the wildland-urban interface. Natural Hazards Review. 9(4): 199-208.

Platt, R.V. and L.M. Rapoza*. 2008. An evaluation of an object-oriented paradigm for land use/land cover classification. Professional Geographer. 60(1): 87-100.

Platt, R.V., T.T. Veblen, R.L. Sherriff. 2006. Are wildfire mitigation and restoration of historic forest structure compatible? A Spatial Modeling Assessment. Annals of the Association of American Geographers. 93(3): 455-470.

Platt, R.V. 2006. A model of land use change and wildfire mitigation. Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design. 33: 749-765.

Platt, R.V. and F.H. Goetz. 2004. A Comparison of AVIRIS and landsat for land use classification at the urban fringe. Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing. 70(7): 813-819.

Platt, R.V. 2004. Local and global analysis of fragmentation in a Colorado mountain region. Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment. 101: 207-218.

(* Indicates student co-author)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Balch, J. K., McIntosh, T. L., Illangakoon, N. T., Cummins, K., Varner, J. M., Hansen, W. D., Marquis, K. D., Raymond, C. L., Harvey, B. J., & Platt, R. V. Good wildfire: Quantifying the beneficial ecosystem work of western U.S. wildfires (2010-2020). ForestSAT, May 2026, Gainesville, Florida, May 2026.

Hawkins, B.E.* and Platt, R.V. Exposure, Vulnerability, and Perception of Wildfires in the 2019 Indonesian Fire Season. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, March 2026.

Ilangakoon, N., McIntosh, T., Iglesias, V., Tuff, T. A., Nagy, C., Amaral, C., Siegel, K., Cook, M., Platt, R., Post, A., Hemming-Schroeder, N., Jenson, C., & Balch, J. K. Early Warning Signals Reveal Fire Legacies and Unburned Tipping Points [Poster presentation]. AGU25 Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, December 2025.

Boyle*, J. M., & Platt, R. V. *Spatial and temporal trends of repeat wildfires in the Western U.S. forests*. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI, March 2025.

Platt, R.V. Factors Associated with Fire Refugia in Western US Forested Ecoregions. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Honolulu, HI. April 17th, 2024.

Platt, R.V. The cloud-based earth observation paradigm: Implications for education and science. Gettysburg College Friday Forum. October 20th, 2023.

Platt, R.V., Characterization of wildfire refugia in western forests using the complete Landsat imagery Archive. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Denver, Colorado. March 24th, 2023.

Platt, R.V., Trends in wildfire extent, severity, and refugia in Western Forests 1986-2021: An analysis using the complete Landsat imagery Archive. Colloquium Series, Department of Geography, CU Boulder. March 3rd, 2023. (Invited Talk).

Platt, R.V., Characterizing fire refugia in western forest ecoregions 1986-2021. Environmental Data Science (EDS) Seminar Series. CIRES Earth Lab, CU Boulder. February 14th, 2023. (Invited Talk)

Platt, R.V., M. Ogra, N. Kisak*, U. Manral, R. Badola. Climate change perceptions, data, and adaptations in the Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary Landscape, India. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. April, 2022. Virtual.

Hauser*, A. and R.V. Platt. 2019. Yellowstone in Transition: An Analysis of the Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Fire Regimes and Post Fire Regeneration of Forested Areas. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. April, 2019, Washington DC.

Platt, R.V. 2018. Trend analysis of the Enhanced Vegetation Index following the 1988 Summer of Fire in Greater Yellowstone. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. April, 2018, New Orleans.

Platt, R.V. 2017. Trend analysis of post-fire vegetation greenness in Yellowstone National Park, USA. EARSeL Forest Fires Special Interest Group Workshop. September, 2017, Chania, Greece.

Platt, R.V., D. Manthos, Y. Franklin, and J. Amos. 2016. Detecting the creation and removal of fracking impoundments using trend analysis of Landsat imagery. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. March 2016, San Francisco.

Platt, R.V., J Bloomquist, and C. Martinez. 2015. Mellon Crazy: Three Paths to Robust Research Experiences for Students. Gettysburg College Friday Faculty Lunch. November 13, 2015.

Platt, R.V. 2015. Remote Sensing of Land Use and Land Cover: from Pixels to Objects and Back Again. Gettysburg College Friday Faculty Lunch. September 25th, 2015.

Platt, R.V. and M.V. Ogra. 2015. Object-based trend analysis of land use change within a wildlife corridor in India. EARSeL Workshop: Temporal Analysis of Satellite Images. Stockholm, Sweden. June, 2015.

Platt, R.V. 2015. Geographic object-based image analysis: promise and pitfalls. ABCD GIS Seminar Series. Harvard Center for Geographic Analysis. Cambridge, MA. March 26th, 2015. (Invited Talk).

Platt, R.V., and M.V. Ogra. 2014. Conservation-induced resettlement as a driver of land use change in India: an object-oriented image analysis. Global Land Project 2nd Open Science Meeting. Berlin, Germany. March, 2014.

Platt, R.V., 2013. Assessing wildfire hazard to structures in the wildland-urban interface: a data fusion approach. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Los Angeles, CA. April, 2013.

Platt, R.V., 2011. Does defensible space help structure survival? A case study of the Fourmile Fire. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Seattle, WA. April 14th, 2011.

Platt, R.V., 2010. The wildfire risk trajectory of exurban development in the Colorado Front Range. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Washington DC. April 14th-18th, 2010.

Platt, R.V. and T. Schoennagel 2008. Have forests really become denser? An object-oriented assessment of a key premise in wildfire policy. GEOBIA 2008 – Pixels, Objects, Intelligence: Geographic Object Based Image Analysis for the 21st Century. Calgary, Canada. August 6-7, 2008.

Platt, R.V. and T. Schoennagel 2008. Have forests really become denser? An object-oriented assessment of a key premise in wildfire policy. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Boston, MA. April 19th, 2008.

Platt, R.V. 2007. Wildfire policy in the Rocky Mountains, USA: One Case Study, Two GIS Analyses. Mudumali Field Station, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. October 16th, 2007.

Platt, R.V. 2007. A GIS model of structure location for wildfire hazard assessment. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. San Francisco, CA. April 17th, 2007.

Platt, R.V., T.T. Veblen, and R. Sherriff. 2006. Uncertainty in the wildland-urban interface: scenarios of exurban development, climate, and historic fire regimes. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Chicago, Il. March 7th, 2006.

Platt, R.V., T.T. Veblen, and R. Sherriff. 2005. Modeling the compatibility of wildfire mitigation and ecological restoration in the wildland-urban interface. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Denver, CO, April 7th, 2005.

Platt, R.V., 2003. Global and local analysis of fragmentation in a mountain region of Colorado. Poster Session, Framing Land Use Dynamics International Conference. Utrecht, the Netherlands, April 2003.

Platt, R.V., 2002. A Comparison of hyperspectral and multispectral imagery for land use mapping. International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis. Laxenburg, Austria, July 2002.

Platt, R.V., 2001. Models of land use change in Colorado and lessons for MERMAID. MERMAID (Mauritius Environmental Resource Management and Industrial Development) Workshop. Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius, June 2001.

(* Indicates student co-author)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Characterization of fire refugia in the coterminous United States using the complete Landsat imagery archive. Gettysburg College Research & Professional Development Grant, Fall 2022.

Johnson Teaching Grant. Funds used to support workshop attendance at the Pecora 21& ISRSE 38 Workshops and Symposium, Baltimore, 2019.

Cloud-based image processing with Google Earth Engine. Gettysburg College Research & Professional Development Grant, May 2018.

Johnson Teaching Grant. Funds to support workshop attendance at the annual meeting of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Baltimore, 2017.

Conservation-Induced Displacement and Deforestation Outside of Rajaji National Park, India. An Object-Oriented Remote Sensing Analysis. Gettysburg College Research & Professional Development Grant, May 2012.

Collaborative Research: Fire Risk and Ecological Integrity in the Wildland Urban Interface of the Colorado Front Range. National Science Foundation, Proposal number 0540928. 2006-2009.

EPA STAR Fellowship. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2001-2004.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

ESIIL Innovation Summit. Environmental Data Science Innovation & Inclusion Lab. Boulder, Colorado. May 23rd-25th, 2023.

Earth Engine Education Workshop (by invite). Google Headquarters, Mountain View, CA. October 7th, 2022, October 13th 2023.

Geo For Good Summit. Google Headquarters, Mountain View, CA. October 4th-5th, 2022.

Geo For Good Summit. Virtual. November 16-19, 2021.

Technical Session: How No-cost Landsat Data is Reshaping College Level Remote Sensing Courses. Pecora 21& ISRSE 38 Workshops and Symposium from October 6-9th, 2019 in Baltimore, Maryland.

FAA Part 107 Preparation Course [for UAV pilot license]. August, 2019.

Google Earth Engine User Summit. Dublin, Ireland. June 12-14, 2018.

R Workshops -- Basic R Programming for Data Analysis, Introduction to R Graphics with ggplot2, R Regression Models. Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University. February-March 2015.

Geo for Higher Education Summit. Mountain View, CA. July 22-24, 2013.

Data Visualization with R: National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education. February, 2011.

Geospatial Statistics Workshop: National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education. February, 2010.

Multilevel Modeling: An Introduction. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Boston, MA. April 17th, 2008.

Analyzing Spatial Data with R. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. San Francisco, CA. April 17th-21st, 2007.

Teaching GIS in Liberal Arts Colleges. National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education. Saratoga Springs, NY. June 20-21st, 2005.

Professional Development Workshop for Early Career Faculty. Geography Faculty Development Alliance. Boulder, CO. June 4-11th, 2005.

Building Geodatabases I. ESRI Training Course. Washington D.C. May 16th-18th, 2005.

Advanced Segmentation and Classification with eCognition. eCognition Training Workshop. Baltimore, MD. March 6th, 2005.

Introduction to Geoprocessing Scripts using Python. ESRI Training Course. Washington D.C. October 28th-29th 2004.

Young Scientist Summer Program. International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) Laxenburg, Austria. June-August 2002.

Introduction to Programming ArcObjects with VBA. Kuhns and Associates. GIS in the Rockies, Denver, CO. October 9th 2002.

Studying Skillful Teaching. Research for Better Teaching. Wellesley College, MA. July 5-11th 1998.