

**Speaker:**

Laura Harmon
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Date: Monday, Oct. 04, 2021

Time: 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm

Zoom: 948 0131 1028

Passcode: 347039

Title:

“Geospatial distribution of *Culicoides* (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) in the western United States”

Abstract:

Culicoides (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) have a global distribution, encompassing all areas except the antarctic. In North America, much of the focus when it comes to characterizing *Culicoides* species is on pathogen vectors, such as *C. sonorensis*, *C. insignis*, and *C. variipennis*. The current records of *Culicoides* distribution tend to be focused on species present in the southeastern United States at this time, likely due to higher prevalence of farming cervids such as deer. The current focus of this research is to characterize the species diversity and geographic distribution of *Culicoides* species present in the western United States. This may help in future research efforts to accurately model distribution changes in both species and disease prevalence as the insects adapt to a changing climate.