

2017 Department of Biology Awards

JOSEPH E. GREAVES ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Julie Kelso, Doctoral Candidate



Julie Kelso grew up in Chicago and will always consider it her home. Her family instilled in her a love of river rafting and canoeing from a young age, and she has always been fascinated by rivers. After a lot of fieldwork that included everything from noxious weed surveys to bird banding Julie decided to pursue a career in aquatic ecology.

She got an M.S. in Biology at the University of Central Arkansas in 2013. Her research focused on comparing macroinvertebrate communities in intermittent and perennial streams of north-central Arkansas. Even though she loved working with bugs, she wanted to learn more about the biochemistry of streams, and how to prevent further stream degradation due to excessive nutrient loads. While attending the annual Society for Freshwater Science meeting Julie saw the work of Michelle Baker and decided to apply for a PhD at Utah State University.

Julie was brought to USU through funding from the NSF funded grant iUTAH, which aims to create a network of researchers, government officials, and other stakeholders to create a sustainable water future for Utah. As part of her research Julie has gotten to sample and explore the Logan, Provo, and Red Butte Creek. In addition to working in beautiful places in Utah she has also benefited from collaboration with other researchers at University of Utah and Brigham Young University. When she is not working she enjoys hiking and biking in Logan Canyon.