

Dr. Ellen Wohl
Department of Geosciences
Colorado State University

Rivers of Carbon: Using River Corridor Science to Understand Carbon Dynamics

A river corridor includes the active channel(s), floodplain, and underlying hyporheic zone. Conceptualizing rivers as corridors, rather than just channels, emphasizes interactions throughout valley bottoms, as well as integrated geomorphic, hydrologic, biotic, and biogeochemical processes. This talk focuses on the dynamics of organic carbon in river corridors, with an emphasis on how specific combinations of process and form maximize organic carbon storage within spatially discrete reaches of river corridor known as beads. The talk ends by exploring the management implications of carbon dynamics in river corridors.