

## **Teresa Chuang**

Title of Project: Towards a field-based understanding of climate change-induced shifts in tree species ranges.

Research summary:

I am interested in understanding how shifts in species ranges are likely to occur in response to climate change, as such range shifts have important implications for both long-term conservation planning and climate models that include climate-ecosystem feedbacks. I am therefore studying seed dispersal and seedling dynamics in the Inyo National Forest in order to evaluate predictions of rapid uphill shifts in tree species ranges over the next century. By understanding how far seeds are moving, the climate conditions that allow for seedling germination and establishment of different species, and the impacts of a climate manipulation that simulates expected earlier snowmelt dates, I hope to be able to better predict the magnitude, rate, and direction of any future range shifts in this system.

Bio:

Originally from New Jersey, I received a B.S. in Environmental Science from Brown University in May, 2000. After spending three years (and seven consecutive summers) traveling and working in outdoor and environmental education around the world, I entered the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at UC Berkeley in the fall of 2003. Now a 4th year Ph.D. student, I try to balance my research interests in climate change and conservation biology with my continued commitment to education and outreach. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, reading, engaging in various creative pursuits, and getting outdoors.