Matthew Wibbenmeyer

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Appointment

Resources for the Future, Washington, District of Columbia

Fellow with Indefinite Appointment, December 2023 – Present

Fellow, August 2018 - November 2023

Education

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California

Ph.D., Economics, June 2018

- Dissertation title: "Essays in the Economics and Politics of Wildfire Management"
- Committee members: Andrew Plantinga, Olivier Deschenes, Sarah Anderson

The University of Montana, Missoula, Montana

M.S., Resource Conservation, December 2010

Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts

B.A., Economics and Biology, June 2007

Working Papers

Chirimar, D., Y. Liao, and **M. Wibbenmeyer** (2026) Sheltering from Wildfire Smoke: Evidence from Smart Thermostat Data.

Wibbenmeyer, M., Y. Liao, H. Druckenmiller, R. Iovanna, and A. Thompson (2026) The Impact of the Conservation Reserve Program on Nearby Property Values. *RFF Working Paper Series*, 26-02.

Wear, D., **M. Wibbenmeyer**, and Y. Zhu (2025) Costs of Forest Fuel Treatment Programs: Spatially Explicit Estimates for California. *RFF Working Paper Series*, 25-03.

Ma, L., **M. Wibbenmeyer**, E. Joiner, C. Lennon, and M. Walls (2024) Sorting Over Wildfire Hazard. *RFF Working Paper Series*, 24-05.

Publications

Gellman, J., and **M. Wibbenmeyer** (2025) Wildfire Smoke in the United States. *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*, 19(1): 138–150.

Gellman, J., M. Walls, and **M. Wibbenmeyer** (2025) Welfare Losses from Wildfire Smoke: Evidence from Daily Outdoor Recreation Data. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 132: 103166.

Krupnick, A., N. Richardson, **M. Wibbenmeyer**, and Y. Zhu (2025) Wildfire Smoke, the Clean Air Act, and the Exceptional Events Rule: Implications and Policy Alternatives. *Environmental Science & Technology*, 59(6): 2917–2927.

Wear, D., **M. Wibbenmeyer**, and E. Joiner (2024) Enhancing the Economic Feasibility of Fuel Treatments: Market and Policy Pathways for US Federal Lands. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 169: 103365.

Wear, D., and **M. Wibbenmeyer** (2024) Land-Use Change, No-Net-Loss Policies, and Effects on Carbon Dioxide Removals. *Carbon Balance and Management*, 19: 40.

Ma, L., M. Walls, **M. Wibbenmeyer**, and C. Lennon (2024) Risk Disclosure and Home Prices: Evidence from California Wildfire Hazard Zones. *Land Economics*, 100(1): 6–21.

Wibbenmeyer, M., M. Sloggy, and J. Sánchez (2023) Economic Analysis of Wildfire Impacts to Water Quality: A Review. *Journal of Forestry*, fvad012.

Anderson, S.E., A.J. Plantinga, and **M. Wibbenmeyer** (2023) Unequal Treatments: Federal Wildfire Fuels Projects and Socioeconomic Status of Nearby Communities. *Environmental and Energy Policy and the Economy*, 4: 177–201.

Anderson, S.E., A.J. Plantinga, and **M. Wibbenmeyer** (2023) Inequality and Government Responsiveness: Evidence from Salient Wildfire Events. *Journal of Politics*, 85(2): 625–639.

Plantinga, A.J., R. Walsh, and **M. Wibbenmeyer** (2022) Priorities and Effectiveness in Wildfire Management: Evidence from Fire Spread in the Western US. *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, 9(4): 603–639.

Wibbenmeyer, M., and M. Robertson (2022) The Distributional Incidence of Wildfire Hazard in the Western US. *Environmental Research Letters*, 17: 064031.

Gellman, J., M. Walls, and **M. Wibbenmeyer** (2022) Wildfire, Smoke, and Outdoor Recreation in the Western United States. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 134: 102619.

Leonard, B., A.J. Plantinga, and **M. Wibbenmeyer** (2021) Stranded Land Constrains Public Land Management and Contributes to Larger Fires. *Environmental Research Letters*, 16(11): 114014.

Wibbenmeyer, M., S.E. Anderson, and A.J. Plantinga (2019) Salience and the Government Provision of Public Goods. *Economic Inquiry*, 57(3): 1547–1567.

Anderson, S.E., M.C. Kennedy, A.J. MacDonald, M.A. Moritz, A.J. Plantinga, C. Tague, R.R. Bart, and **M. Wibbenmeyer** (2018) The Dangers of Disaster-Driven Responses to Climate Change. *Nature Climate Change*, 8(8): 651–653.

Hand, M.S., **M. Wibbenmeyer**, D.E. Calkin, and M.P. Thompson (2015) Risk Preferences, Probability Weighting, and Strategy Tradeoffs in Wildfire Management. *Risk Analysis*, 35(10): 1876–1891.

Wibbenmeyer, M., M.S. Hand, D.E. Calkin, T.J. Venn, and M.P. Thompson (2013) Risk Preferences in Strategic Wildfire Decision Making: A Choice Experiment with US Wildfire Managers. *Risk Analysis*, 33(6): 1021–1037.

Calkin, D.E., T.J. Venn, **M. Wibbenmeyer**, and M.P. Thompson (2012) Estimating Wildland Fire Managers' Preferences Toward Competing Strategic Suppression Objectives. *International Journal of Wildland Fire*, 22(2): 212–222.

Works in Progress

Optimal Fuel Management in Fire Prone Landscapes, with F. Strabo and D. Wear.

An Experimental Survey Study of the Costs and Cost-Drivers of Wildland Fuel Treatment Projects, with D. Wear and E. Joiner.

Welfare Effects of Climate Change for Outdoor Recreation, with J. Gellman and Z. Pond.

Invited presentations

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; University of California, Berkeley; Georgetown University; University of California, Los Angeles; University of Nevada, Reno; US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service; Pennsylvania State University; University of California, Berkeley; Resources for the Future; Boise State University

PRESENTATIONS

W5133 Annual Meeting, Burlington, Vermont, March 5-7, 2025.

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Conference, Washington, District of Columbia, July, 25, 2023.

Association of Environmental and Resource Economic Summer Conference, Portland, Maine, May 31-June 2, 2023.

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Conference, Anaheim, California, August 2, 2022 (virtual).

Western Economic Association International Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon, June 30-July 3, 2022.

Association of Environmental and Resource Economic Summer Conference, Miami, Florida, June 2-3, 2022.

National Bureau of Economics Research, Environmental and Energy Policy and the Economy Conference, Washington, District of Columbia, May 19, 2022.

Allied Social Sciences Association Annual Meeting, virtual conference, January 8, 2022.

Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) webinar, November 16, 2020.

Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Annual Meeting, virtual conference, June 15-19, 2020.

Association of Environmental and Resource Economic Summer Conference, virtual conference, June 3-5, 2020.

W4133 Annual Meeting, Athens, Georgia, February 13-14, 2020.

Association of Environmental and Resource Economic Summer Conference, Incline Village, Nevada, May 30-31, 2019.

The Workshop in Environmental Economics & Data Science, Portland, Oregon, March 29-30, 2019.

Association of Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, District of Columbia, November 8-10, 2018.

Heartland Environmental & Resource Economics Workshop, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Champaign, Illinois, September 30-October 1, 2017.

University of Colorado Environmental & Resource Economics Workshop. Vail, Colorado, September, 15-16, 2017.

Association of Environmental and Resource Economic Summer Conference, Breckenridge, Colorado, June 9-11, 2016.

2014 Searle Workshop: The Politics and Economics of Wildfire Policy, University of California, Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara, California, October 28, 2014. (Discussant)

International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO) World Congress. Seoul, South Korea, August 23-28, 2010.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

B. Holmes and M. Wibbenmeyer. The Conservation Reserve Program and Rural Communities in the United States. *Resources Magazine*, October 6, 2026.

M. Wibbenmeyer. If/Then: To Reduce Wildfire Risk, Agencies Need to Manage Both Fire Prevention and Response. *Common Resources*, May 26, 2026.

N. Lohawala, K. McCormack, E. DeAngeli, A. Kota, E. Ziegler, A. Krupnick, B. Spiller, D.N. Wear, and M. Wibbenmeyer. The Future of Biofuels: Policy Lessons and Research Directions. Resources for the Future Report 26-09, May 12, 2026.

E. Joiner, N. Lohawala, and M. Wibbenmeyer. Indirect Land-Use Change: A Persistent Challenge for Modeling and Policy. Resources for the Future Issue Brief 26-02, March 3, 2026.

Y. Liao, M. Wibbenmeyer, H. Druckenmiller, R. Iovanna, A. Thompson, and B. Holmes. Conservation and Community: The Local Economic Impacts of the Conservation Reserve Program. Resources for the Future Report 26-02, January 20, 2026.

M. Wibbenmeyer and D.N. Wear. Will Increased Timber Harvesting on Federal Lands Reduce Growing Wildfire Hazards? Resources for the Future Report 25-13, July 21, 2025.

M. Walls and M. Wibbenmeyer. Shaping Land Use Patterns in the Wildland-Urban Interface: The Role of State and Local Governments in Reducing Exposure to Wildfire Risks. Resources for the Future Report 25-11, 2025.

E. Joiner, M. Walls, and M. Wibbenmeyer. Job Exposure to Wildfire Risk in the American West. Resources for the Future Report 25-08, April 14, 2025.

M. Wibbenmeyer. In Focus: Reducing Wildfire Risk and Insurance Prices. *In Focus*, March 4, 2025.

M. Wibbenmeyer. After the Los Angeles Fires, Reexamining the Wildfire Crisis in the United States. *Common Resources*, February 27, 2025.

M. Walls, Y. Liao, D.N. Wear, and M. Wibbenmeyer. The Los Angeles Fires, with Yanjun (Penny) Liao, David Wear, and Matthew Wibbenmeyer. *Resources Radio*, January 28, 2025.

Y. Liao, M. Walls, and M. Wibbenmeyer. Facing Wildfire Insurance Challenges: Five Lessons from the National Flood Insurance Program. Resources for the Future Report 24-12, July 18, 2024.

M. Wibbenmeyer. Far-Reaching Smoke Is Raising the Costs of Wildfire Damages. *Common Resources*, July 26, 2023.

M. Wibbenmeyer. Far-reaching Smoke is Raising the Costs of Wildfire Damages. *Barron's*, June 15, 2023.

D. Wear and M. Wibbenmeyer. Prospects for Land Sector Carbon Dioxide Removal in the United States, Resources for the Future Report, forthcoming.

E. Joiner, L. Ma, M. Walls, M. Wibbenmeyer, and C. Lennon. Disclosing Wildfire Risks in Home Sales. *Common Resources*, June 1, 2023.

H. Druckenmiller and M. Wibbenmeyer. Presenting RFF Data Commons: A Way to Tell Accessible Stories with Data, *Common Resources*, May 10, 2023.

M. Walls and M. Wibbenmeyer. How Do Wildfires Affect Local Economies? *Common Resources*, March 16, 2023.

Y. Liao, M. Walls, M. Wibbenmeyer, and S. Pesek. Insurance Availability and Affordability under Increasing Wildfire Risk in California, Resources for the Future Issue Brief 22-09, November 30, 2022.

A. Bartuska and M. Wibbenmeyer. Managed Fires Can Help Mitigate the Risks Posed by Increasing Frequency of Wildfires. *Common Resources*, April 4, 2022.

M. Wibbenmeyer. Trends and Solutions in Wildfire Management. *Resources Magazine*, October 21, 2021.

K. Cleary, M. Hafstead, A. Krupnick, J. Linn, W. Look, K. Palmer, D. Raimi, K. Rennert, N. Roy, and M. Wibbenmeyer. Under Construction: The Build Back Better Act. *Resources Magazine*, September 16, 2021.

M. Walls and M. Wibbenmeyer. Wildfire Smoke May Upend Outdoor Recreation in the West. *The Hill*, September 9, 2021.

M. Wibbenmeyer and L. Dunlap. Wildfires in the United States 102: Policy and Solutions. *Resources for the Future Explainer Series*, August 18, 2021.

M. Wibbenmeyer and A. McDarris. Wildfires in the United States 101: Context and Conseqences. *Resources for the Future Explainer Series*, July 30, 2021.

M. Wibbenmeyer. Managing Wildfires. *Milken Institute Review*, April 26, 2021.

M. Wibbenmeyer. Evidence from Wildfire Events in the Western United States Reveals Inequalities in Wildfire Management. *Common Resources*, December 16, 2020.

M. Wibbenmeyer. New Federal Policies are Needed to Address Surging Wildfire Smoke. *Common Resources*, October 30, 2020.

A. Bartuska, D.N. Wear, and M. Wibbenmeyer. Thoughtful Forest Management and Better Building Practices Can Help Mitigate the Impact of Wildfires. *Common Resources*, October 14, 2020.

D. Raimi and M. Wibbenmeyer. California's Wildfires: Climate Change, COVID, and Consequences, with Matthew Wibbenmeyer. *Resources Radio*, September 1, 2020.

M. Wibbenmeyer and K. Nadeau. Conversations on Climate Challenges: Wildfire Policy and Public Health. *Common Resources*, July 9, 2020.

A. Bartuska, D. Burtraw, K. Cleary, M. Hafstead, A. Krupnick, J. Linn, K. Palmer, B. Prest, D. Raimi, D. Shawhan, and M. Wibbenmeyer. A Close Look at the New Report from the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. *Common Resources*, July 6, 2020.

M. Wibbenmeyer. PG&E Power Outages Reduce Just a Portion of Wildfire Risk. *Common Resources*, October 11, 2019.

M. Wibbenmeyer. Building Best Practices for Managing Wildfire Smoke. *Resources Magazine*, October 9, 2019.

M. Walls, M. Wibbenmeyer, and C. Kousky. Does the Coastal Barrier Resources Act Provide a Policy Template to Address Wildfire Risk? *Common Resources*, March 20, 2019.

M. Wibbenmeyer. Contributing Factors, Responsibility, and Liability in California's Wildfire Disasters. *Resources Magazine*, March 15, 2019.

D. Raimi and M. Wibbenmeyer. Wildfires, with Matthew Wibbenmeyer. *Resources Radio*, December 4, 2018.

A. Bartuska and M. Wibbenmeyer. Forest Magement Is Only One Risk Factor in the California Wildfires. *Axios*, November 15, 2018.

M. Wibbenmeyer and M. Zwirn. Can Fleeting Public Interest in Wildfire Risk Drive Long-Term Change? *Common Resources*, September 13, 2018.

PRESS

Leber, J. Smoke from wildfires is a growing health threat to both people and birds. *Audubon*, September 15, 2026.

Waldmeir, Patti. Wildfire smoke threatens to cloud the 'Pure Michigan' brand. *Financial Times*, August 10, 2026.

Woodhouse, M. Study: Job growth fastest in the West where wildfire risk is the highest. *Mountain West News Bureau*, April 22, 2025.

Biron, C.L. Can LA wildfires prompt new focus on community mitigation efforts? *Reuters*, January 21, 2025.

Davies, S. Forestry getting attention early in farm bill drafting. *Agri-Pulse*, June 28, 2023.

Jiang, J. Wildfire risk disclosure lowers home prices but only some have to divulge. *North State Public Radio*, June 9, 2023.

Jiang, J. A new study reveals disclosing fire risk lowers home values. *North State Public Radio*, June 7, 2023.

Winter, A. Why are Canada's wildfires choking the U.S. this time? *Rolling Stone*, June 7, 2023.

Lee, J. Same forces driving insurers out of California have already taken toll on home prices. *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 6, 2023.

Grover, H. Researchers say fire policies should take demographics into account. *NM Political Report*, May 31, 2022.

Institute of Physics. Wealthiest homeowners most at risk of wildfire hazard. Phys.org, May 26, 2022.

Hannay, J. Wildfire homeowners most at risk of wildfire hazard. *Science Daily*, May 26, 2022.

Barnes, A. The priciest homes faces highest risk wildfire, study finds. *The Hill*, May 26, 2022.

Beck, M. High price homes are more likely to be threatened by wildfires. *Mountain West News Bureau*, May 28, 2022.

Shukla, S. Disaster relief in the U.S. often depends on your race. *Chicago Policy Review*, March 8, 2022.

Mohr, K. What Biden's infrastructure bill means for wildfire management. *High Country News*, November 19, 2021.

Melley, B. Wildfires, smoke snuff out outdoor adventures across US. *Associated Press*, Sept. 5, 2021.

Mullen, M. Smoke does little to scare off campers on public lands, report suggests. *Mountain West News Bureau*, August 4, 2021.

Leefeldt, E. and A. Danise. 'Hardening' homes against wildfires in California has been an uphill battle. *Forbes Magazine*, February 10, 2021.

Mullen, M. Paper suggests race, socioeconomics affect wildfire responsiveness. *Mountain West News Bureau*, January 11, 2021.

Flavelle, C. Wealthier, Whiter Areas Are More Likely to Get Help After Fires, Data Show. *New York Times*, Dec. 16, 2020.

Kish, M. Economic damage from Oregon's wildfires expected to mount. *Portland Business Journal*, September 14, 2020.