

...PRESENTS:

# JENNIE OHAYON

ESNR SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE, 2010-2011



Here I am in "haz-mat" gear while doing plant identification—because I'm allergic to poison ivy!

## Some stuff about me:

- ⦿ **Age:** 28
- ⦿ **Where I grew up:** Toronto, Canada
- ⦿ **High school:** A.Y. Jackson Secondary School
- ⦿ **Favorite subjects in high school:** Biology and English
- ⦿ **College (undergraduate):** University of Toronto, University of Glasgow
- ⦿ **Some of my favorite things:** Growing, cooking, and eating food; reading; hiking; biking
- ⦿ **Something weird about me:** I grew up with tons of animals: mice, dogs, cats, a rabbit, lizards, snakes, scorpions, a hedgehog. Once when travelling with my "zoo" from Canada to the United States, they didn't want to let me cross the border because I "didn't have pet shop permit".
- ⦿ **What I do when I get frustrated:** I usually keep working on whatever is frustrating me, although it would probably be better to go for a bike ride!

## environmental

"NO ENTRADA. Restauración de Suelos...". A site in San Francisco that has been fenced off because of contamination.



An urban site that used to be an industrial wasteland. It is still located within a part of L.A. that is highly industrialized and polluted, but people living nearby can now visit this restored wetland, which is full of many native plants and birds.

## restoration

### What I study

I study how to restore contaminated lands so that they can be safely used for parks for people to enjoy and as habitats for native plants and wildlife.

I want to know how best to clean up and redevelop contaminated sites like decommissioned military bases. I use interviews, participation in public meetings, and document analysis to understand how scientists, government officials, and community members can best work together on these projects.

I look forward to learning more about the Watsonville tradition of environmental activism. I hope we can work on science projects that help us understand community concerns about the local environment, like air and water quality.

I remember that a lot of my thinking about environmental problem solving was shaped in high school. While I learned a lot there, I wished I'd had more opportunities for more interactive activities and field trips. I wish I'd had something like the SCWIBLES program back then. I'm very excited about working with all of you and figuring out what kind of environmental science activities we can come up with to learn from and have fun. Come say 'hi' and chat with me if you see me around!

