



Valerie Hermanson

Valerie Hermanson serves as the **Chimney Rock National Monument and Tres Rios Bureau of Land Management Transportation Scholar** for the 2013-2014 Public Lands Transportation Scholar Program. She will be contributing her experience and knowledge to both locations to help develop a long-term transportation plan through the collaboration of the community and the studying of the current issues.

Valerie became obsessed with all things planning after living in Monteverde, Costa Rica, and working among local planners and biologists grappling with significant increases in population, tourism and development that were placing stress on the delicate natural environment and local culture.

Since Costa Rica, Valeria has extensive experience in research, GIS mapping and analysis, database management, technical writing, outreach and presenting in areas focused on transportation (bike/ped, transit), natural resource management, placemaking and community livability. She is interested in the relationship and balancing act between urban and wild and specifically between transportation and the natural environment.

Valerie received a B.A. in Journalism and a Masters in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico. When she isn't thinking, talking or blogging about planning, you can find her training for her next marathon, biking around town or dreaming up her next adventure.