

# MARY STRAKA

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Digital Portfolio: [MaryStraka.journoportfolio.com](http://MaryStraka.journoportfolio.com)

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## PERSONAL PROFILE

I am an interdisciplinary geographer and cartographer passionate about leveraging geospatial techniques for data analysis, visualization, and science communication.

## EDUCATION

### MS in Environmental Science

University of Colorado Denver, Expected 2023

- Concentration in Geospatial Analysis
- Certificate in Geographic Information Systems

### BA in Geography

University of Colorado Denver, 2017

- Concentration in Environmental Science

## SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- ESRI ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS Online to analyze, visualize, and model vector and raster data
- Use of cartographic principles and graphic design tools to create compelling maps
- Organization and project management
- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Technical writing and science communication
- Confident public speaking
- Creative problem solving
- Adaptable and versatile
- Spanish language (conversational)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Geography & Environmental Science

University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO | August 2021 - Present

- Assist faculty with curriculum development, course content organization, and grading coursework
- Develop and deliver engaging review sessions for class of 50+ undergraduate students
- Tailor communication style and strategy to assist students from diverse educational and socioeconomic backgrounds

### Seasonal Hunter Education Assistant

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Denver, CO | March 2021 - November 2021

- Effectively and professionally communicate with members of the public from diverse backgrounds about state-specific natural resource policies and regulations
- Develop, distribute, and analyze survey results from volunteer educators to evaluate areas for improvement of in-person and online classes

### Front of House Manager

The Feedery at Grow + Gather, Englewood, CO | November 2019 - Present

- Utilized communication and versatility to adapt to unpredictable situations while maintaining positive relations among staff and excellent customer service for guests
- Created philanthropy program which raised over \$900 in three months, including proposal, budget, marketing materials, and staff and community engagement

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## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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### **GIS Student Group**, University of Colorado Denver | April 2020 - Present

- Gain experience in applying academic theory and concepts to real-world data and situations
- Utilize ArcGIS Pro to process, analyze, and display data in map format
- Conduct research and incorporate map product into project deliverable addressing ways to balance recreational use and conservation interests in Pike-San Isabel National Forest

### **School Programs Volunteer**, Denver Audubon | August 2019 - Present

- Conduct research, compile and analyze data, and use ArcGIS Pro to create a series of maps highlighting priority areas for avian conservation
- Assist in delivering engaging classroom presentations on various topics related to ecology, habitat restoration, and natural resource conservation
- Collaborate with staff and volunteers on written projects including grant applications and articles for website and social media

### **Environmental Work-Trade**, Bocas del Toro, Panama | Oct 2018 - Mar 2019

- Work with private landowners to complete projects including invasive species removal, revegetation of native plants, stormwater management, and erosion mitigation
- Collaborate with diverse community and incorporate local knowledge in addressing environmental issues
- Research and develop informational content for website

## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

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### **CU Denver GIS Day**

- 2021: "Glacier National Park: Search and Rescue Headquarters"
- 2020: "Conservation and Recreation in Pike-San Isabel National Forest"

**"People Flock to Birding During Pandemic,"** Denver Audubon, June 2020

### **"Lights Out Colorado" Webinar**, December 2020

- Represented Denver Audubon at virtual meeting discussing creation of "Lights Out Colorado" program working to reduce human impact on nocturnal bird migration in collaboration with International DarkSky Association and Front Range Audubon

### **"Conservation in Colorado" Lecture Series**, November 2020 - January 2021

- Co-hosted series of webinars presented by Denver Audubon covering various topics including impacts of declining insect biodiversity on avian populations, mitigation of avian-feline and avian-infrastructure conflict, and consumer education about bird-friendly coffee and chocolate