Chris Curtis

GIS Specialist | Hydrogeologist | Data Solutions Developer

Summary

Geospatial and data professional with 10+ years of experience in GIS, hydrology, and automation. Expert in R, Python, and JavaScript for building decision-support tools supported by enterprise GIS management. Strong record of bridging technical expertise with practical solutions for utilities and environmental projects.

Education

California State University, Chico
M.S. Hydrology/Hydrogeology, 2014
Thesis: Ground Water Modeling to Define Vegetation Roles and Evaluate a Planned Restoration of a Montane Meadow

University of California, Merced
B.S. Earth Systems Science (Ecosystem Science), 2011

Personal Interests

- Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (Black Belt, 2× IBJJF Brown-Belt World Champion)
- Backpacking & Fly-fishing
- Cars & Computers

CAREER EXPERIENCE

GIS Specialist – Merced Irrigation District, Energy Resources Dept.
Aug 2023 – Present | Merced, CA

- Developed interactive **R + JavaScript customer usage analysis app** enabling load statistics, feeder/device/meter queries, and asset performance dashboards.
- Automated daily **data ingestion, XML parsing, and enterprise database updates** for reliable usage analytics.
- Created **map-based querying, load offset scenarios, and GIS error detection** improving data accuracy and decision-making.
- Managed **ArcGIS Online, Portal, Enterprise Server, and SDE geodatabases**; coordinated with IT and consultants for Cityworks integration.
- Supported **Itron and Northstar implementations** for electric and customer service teams.

Project Hydrogeologist – Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers
Jun 2015 – Aug 2023 | Woodland, CA

- Automated **well permitting workflows** and hydrogeologic analysis using R and Python.
- Designed and maintained **internal/client geodatabases** to support groundwater and regulatory projects.
- Led GIS and mapping support for multiple project managers and clients, improving efficiency.
- Created **repeatable GIS automation scripts**, reducing turnaround time for mapping and reporting.