

Joshua Shindelbower grew up in South Lake Tahoe, taking full advantage of every outdoor activity the Sierra Nevada has to offer. In 2016, he came to Humboldt State University (HSU) to complete his education. During his time at HSU he developed a passion for geospatial analysis and cartographic design, and enjoyed researching new methods in both fields. In December of 2018, he earned a Bachelor's of Arts in Geography and an advanced certification in geospatial analysis. Joshua is currently a GIS Mapping Technician with Green Diamond Resource Company, and he and his partner had their first child in February, 2019.

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This map was created using a combination of GIS, photo editing, and graphic design software after an inspiring road trip through the area. It shows the wide diversity of land cover across the region, and a key weak point in the Appalachian Mountains, known as “The Gaps of the Allegheny,” which allowed European immigrants to move toward fertile land deposited by millions of years of erosion. The reader can see that there is very little unused space in the region. Nearly every non-urban inch of land has been occupied for agricultural purposes, down to the thinnest sliver valleys. This map was meant to highlight one of the planet’s more unique topographic landscapes, and perhaps inspire others to experience the area.

