

FOREST WALK

Sounds you hear in this recording were sampled during a walk through the Lakeside Lab forest. I paused many times during that walk and used the instructions listed to the right to guide how each sound was made.

Later, when the sounds were played, they were programmed to track with the changing weather. The pitch, volume, reverb, speed, and frequency of the sounds fluctuate with the weather, in real time. The process deepened my awareness of these invisible ecological forces.

Learn more about this project and listen to all the recordings



CANOPY TEMPERATURE

Whispering through hands formed into a cup shape to mimic the cool shade under a canopy

CHLOROPHYLL INDEX

Rubbing hands together with leaves between them to create a sound indicative of lush, green vegetation

CROP EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

Making a soft “shh” noise to symbolize the subtle sound of water evaporating from plant leaves

DEW POINT TEMPERATURE

Tapping two fingers lightly against the lips to mimic the sound of dewdrops falling

HEAT STRESS

Exhaling sharply in short bursts to represent the stress and intensity of excessive heat on plants

HUMIDITY

Breathing onto the back of hands to represent high humidity levels

IRRIGATION PRESSURE

Making a flowing water sound by quickly moving the tongue against the roof of the mouth, representing the movement of water through irrigation

LEAF WETNESS

Patting hands together softly, to mimic the sensation of wet leaves

NORMALIZED DIFFERENCE VEGETATION INDEX

Humming a rising melody to symbolize the health and growth of vegetation

PRECIPITATION

Gently tapping fingers against palms for varying intensities of rain

PRESSURE

Humming from deep in the throat to change pitch and signify changes in atmospheric pressure

SOLAR RADIATION

Holding a hand high and snap fingers to represent the sun’s intensity

TEMPERATURE

Rubbing hands together or blowing on them softly to represent warmth

VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT

Sucking air through clenched teeth to produce a hissing sound that represents dry air

WIND

Whistling softly for a gentle breeze or more loudly for strong winds

WOOD MOUND

Sounds you hear in this recording were sampled at a large wood pile at Lakeside Lake, where I used the instructions listed to the right to guide how each sound was made.

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CANOPY TEMPERATURE

Create a soft rustling sound by moving a bundle of leaves or small twigs under a forest canopy

CHLOROPHYLL INDEX

Rub green wood on dry logs for a smooth, continuous sound

CROP EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

Blow through twigs for a soft, airy sound

DEW POINT TEMPERATURE

Lightly tap twigs on logs for delicate, random sounds that represent the formation of dew droplets

HEAT STRESS

Rapidly tap sticks together for an intense clicking sound, conveying high temperatures affecting plants

HUMIDITY

Rub two pieces of wood together to produce a friction sound, reflecting the damp air of high humidity

IRRIGATION PRESSURE

Pour water on wood for varying flow sounds

LEAF WETNESS

Splash water on logs for the sound of droplets

NORMALIZED DIFFERENCE VEGETATION INDEX

Drum rhythmically for healthy vegetation

PRECIPITATION

Sprinkle wood chips onto a flat piece of wood to mimic the sound of raindrops

PRESSURE

Press and release logs to create a deep, creaking sound

SOLAR RADIATION

Strike wood against hollow logs for bright, resonant tones

TEMPERATURE

Tap a log with a stick, varying the speed and intensity of the taps to represent varying temperatures

VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT

Drag a piece of wood across a rough log surface to produce a dry, rasping sound, indicating the dryness

WIND

Blow gently through the gaps of stacked logs to create a whooshing sound, representing varying wind speeds

DIATOM

Sounds you hear in this recording were an exploration of diatoms, the microscopic organisms that are so beloved by the Lakeside Lab community. The sounds were sampled at Bodine studio, where I used the instructions listed to the right to guide how each sound was made.

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CANOPY TEMPERATURE

Gently rustle a piece of paper or fabric, adjusting speed to reflect different temperatures under the canopy

CHLOROPHYLL INDEX

Create pulsing, rhythmic tone with glasses, modifying the frequency to indicate different chlorophyll levels

CROP EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

Blow gently through a straw into a glass of water to create bubbling sounds

DEW POINT TEMPERATURE

Tap a metal or glass surface lightly with a pencil to produce soft, random plinking sounds

HEAT STRESS

Use a pair of spoons to create rapid clicking sounds, increasing the speed to indicate higher heat stress

HUMIDITY

Whisper softly or blow gently across the top of a bottle to create a continuous, airy sound

IRRIGATION PRESSURE

Pour water steadily from a pitcher or use a recording of flowing water, adjusting the flow rate to reflect different pressures

LEAF WETNESS

Use a small container of water and splash it gently with your fingers, varying the intensity of the splashes

NORMALIZED DIFFERENCE VEGETATION INDEX

Produce harmonious choral tones

PRECIPITATION

Use a dropper or a spoon to drip water onto a surface in varying speed

PRESSURE

Hum into a resonant object like a glass or bowl, adjust the pitch and volume to reflect changes in pressure

SOLAR RADIATION

Strike a small piece of metal gently and allow the sound to resonate

TEMPERATURE

Tap glass at varying frequencies

VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT

Use a spray bottle set to mist, releasing a fine spray near the microphone to create a hissing sound

WIND

Blow steadily into a microphone to create a whooshing sound

PRAIRIE GRASS

Sounds heard in this recording were an exploration of prairie grass. The sounds were sampled at Lakeside Lab and Freda Haffner Kettlehole State Preserve, where I used the instructions listed to the right to guide how each sound was made.

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CANOPY TEMPERATURE

Rustle a bundle of grass lightly to produce a cool, soft sound, reflecting the cooler temperatures under a canopy

CHLOROPHYLL INDEX

Slide green grass between your fingers to create a whispering sound, symbolizing the vitality of high chlorophyll content

CROP EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

Blow softly through a hollow grass stem to create an airy sound that mimics water evaporation and transpiration

DEW POINT TEMPERATURE

Lightly tap blades of grass together to create a delicate, dripping sound, symbolizing the formation of dew

HEAT STRESS

Rapidly tap dry grass stems together to create a clicking sound to indicate the stress plants experience when it's hot

HUMIDITY

Rub damp grass for a soft sound

IRRIGATION PRESSURE

Pour water through a thick bundle of grass to create a flowing, gurgling sound and represent irrigation systems

LEAF WETNESS

Squeeze wet grass to create a squelching sound, representing the presence of moisture on leaves

NORMALIZED DIFFERENCE VEGETATION INDEX

Pluck grass rhythmically to produce a harmonious, lively sound that signifies healthy vegetation

PRECIPITATION

Sprinkle water on dry grass for rain

PRESSURE

Press down firmly on a pile of dry grass to make a crumpling sound, symbolizing changes in atmospheric pressure

SOLAR RADIATION

Shake dry grass for a crackling sound

TEMPERATURE

Swish a bundle of grass to represent different temperatures, mimicking the varying intensity of heat

VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT

Scratch a dry blade of grass against a rough surface to produce a raspy, dry sound, indicating the dryness

WIND

Wave grass for whooshing sounds

LAKE TOP

Sounds heard in this recording were an exploration of the Lakeside Lab lake. The sounds were sampled in the lake, where I used the instructions listed to the right to guide how each sound was made.

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CANOPY TEMPERATURE

Dip paddle under water, then lift slowly to create cool, dripping sounds

CHLOROPHYLL INDEX

Slide paddle through water smoothly to create a gentle, continuous sound

CROP EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

Blow softly across paddle blade to create a gentle, airy sound

DEW POINT TEMPERATURE

Let water droplets fall from paddle tip, mimicking dew formation

HEAT STRESS

Rapidly tap paddle against water surface for sharp, stressed sounds

HUMIDITY

Rub wet paddle handle softly to mimic moist air.

IRRIGATION PRESSURE

Pour water steadily from a cup or bottle to create flowing, gurgling sounds

LEAF WETNESS

Squeeze soaked sponge over kayak side, mimicking water dripping from leaves

NORMALIZED DIFFERENCE VEGETATION INDEX

Paddle rhythmically, splashing to create lively, harmonious water sounds

PRECIPITATION

Drip water from paddle for light rain; splash water for heavy rain

PRESSURE

Push paddle down into water to create deep, resonant splashes

SOLAR RADIATION

Shake water off paddle vigorously to create sparkling, shimmering sounds

TEMPERATURE

Tap paddle lightly or heavily on water, mimicking cool and warm temperatures

VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT

Scrape paddle edge across kayak hull for a dry, raspy sound

WIND

Wave paddle above water to create whooshing wind sounds