

**Hwiseo Choi**, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA for his project: *Hydrologic Slowdown and Lithium Isotope Weathering Signals in the East River, Colorado*.

I am a second-year PhD student in the Department of Geology & Environmental Science at the University of Pittsburgh, working under the supervision of Dr. Evan Ramos. My research uses lithium isotope geochemistry ( $\delta^7\text{Li}$ ) to trace how silicate weathering and clay mineral formation respond to hydrologic and biogeochemical controls in mountain headwater catchments.

My project focuses on beaver ponds and wetlands in the East River Watershed, Colorado, where slowed water flow promotes sediment and solute retention. By sampling paired upstream, pond, and downstream mainstem waters alongside pond sediments and pore waters across multiple pond complexes, I am testing whether elevated  $\delta^7\text{Li}$  signatures in pond waters reflect upstream-reacted inflow, in-pond secondary mineral formation, or the export of pond-modified water downstream. Preliminary results show that pond waters carry systematically higher  $\delta^7\text{Li}$  values than the mainstem, pointing to enhanced clay formation and distinct redox conditions within ponds.

With support from the Lipman Student Research Grant, I will fund travel to the East River Watershed, analytical costs for isotope measurements, and travel to present my results at a national conference. This support will allow me to resolve how beaver-driven landscape change shapes downstream weathering signals and regolith development in mountain catchments.

I earned my B.S. in Environment and Natural Resources from The Ohio State University before beginning my PhD, first at Rice University and now at the University of Pittsburgh. I am grateful to the Howard and Jean Lipman Foundation and the Geological Society of America for supporting my research."

