

Pre- and Post-Wildfire Forest Management For Ecological Restoration and Fire Resiliency

February 9-11, 2010
 McClellan Park Lecture Theater, Sacramento, California



Sponsored by
 USDA Forest Service and the University of California



<http://ucanr.org/wildfire2010>

Conference Objective: The objective of this conference is to bring scientists, forest managers, environmental organizations and interested members of the general public together to present and discuss information relevant to the management of forested land before and after wildfire.

The focus of the conference will be on conifer forest types common to the Sierra Nevada and Trinity-Klamath Region of California. It is expected that information presented at the conference will have application to similar forest types in other regions.

Conference Program

Tuesday, February 9

I: Introduction and Pre-Wildfire Management Options

Moderator: Mike Chapel

- 7:00 **REGISTRATION**
- 8:00 - 8:30 **Welcome**—*Mike Chapel, USDA Forest Service*
- 8:30 - 9:00 **Opening Address**—*Beth Pendleton, USDA Forest Service*

I-1: Historical and Ecological Setting

Moderator: Brandon Collins

- 9:00 - 9:30 **Sierra/Cascade Vegetation, Historic Fire Regimes and Fuel Types**—*Carl Skinner, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station*
- 9:30 - 10:00 **Pre- and Post-Fire Treatment Influences on Forest Dynamics**—*Rob York, UC Center for Forestry*
- 10:00 - 10:30 **Ownership and Management Goals and Objectives: Public, private industrial, private non-industrial**—*Gary Nakamura, UC Cooperative Extension, Berkeley*
- 10:30 - 11:00 Break

I-2: Pre-Fire Management Options and Treatments

Moderator: Brandon Collins

- 11:00 - 11:30 **Description of Pre-Fire Treatment Options**—*Scott Stephens, University of California, Berkeley, ESPM*
- 11:30 - 12:00 **Scale Effects on Treatments, Their Impacts and Effectiveness: Parcel Scale to Landscape Scale**—*Mark Finney, USDA Forest Service*
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Break
- 1:00 - 1:30 **Treatment Effects on Wildfire Behavior**—*Malcolm North, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station*
- 1:30 - 3:00 **Panel: Ecological and Environmental Impacts of Pre-Fire Treatments**
 Wildlife Habitat—*Don Yasuda, USDA Forest Service*
 Soils—*Matt Busse, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station*
 Watershed Functions—*Lee MacDonald, Colorado State University*

Tuesday, February 9

I-3: Review of Case Studies Demonstrating Collaboration on Pre-Fire Treatments

Moderator: Mike De Lasaux

- 3:00 – 3:30 Break
- 3:30 – 4:00 **Public and Private Fuel Management in the WUI and Beyond**—*Mike De Lasaux, UC Cooperative Extension, Plumas-Sierra Counties*
- 4:00 – 4:30 **El Dorado County: Wildland-Urban Interface**—*Mark Egbert, El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide RCD*
- 4:30 – 5:00 **Overview of the day's presentations?**—*Rick Standiford, UC Berkeley, Center for Forestry*
- 5:00 Adjourn

Wednesday, February 10

II: Post-Wildfire Treatment Options

Moderator: Mike Chapel

- 8:00 – 8:10 **Welcome and Introductions**—*Mike Chapel, USDA Forest Service*
- 8:10 – 8:30 Opening Address by CALFIRE Representative—*Crawford Tuttle, CALFIRE*

II-1: Ecological Effects of Wildfire in the Sierra Nevada: What is the Problem?

Moderator: Russ Henly

- 8:30 – 9:00 **Fire Intensity and Scale: Projections for Sierra Nevada Forests**—*Carl Skinner, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station*
- 9:00 – 9:25 **Effects of Wildfires on Runoff and Erosion**—*Lee MacDonald, Colorado State University*
- 9:25 – 9:50 **Ecological Benefits of High Intensity Wild Fire**—*Chad Hanson, UC Davis and John Muir Project*
- 9:50 – 10:15 **Ecological Implications of Future Fire Regimes**—*Hugh Safford, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region & UC Davis*

II-2: Post-Fire Management Responses

Moderator: Jeff Calvert

- 10:15 – 10:40 Break
- 10:40 – 11:10 **Post-fire Emergency Response to Reduce Unacceptable Risks to Human Life, Property, Cultural and Natural Resources**—*Brent Roath, USDA Forest Service*
- 11:10 – 11:40 **Pros and Cons of Salvage and Restoration Operations**—*John Sessions, Oregon State University, College of Forestry*
- 11:40 – 12:10 **Reforestation Options**—*John Helms, UC Berkeley (ret.)*
- 12:10 – 1:10 Lunch Break

II-3: Current Post-Fire Management Practices

Moderator: Mike Landram

- 1:10 – 1:40 **Reforestation Practices and Issues on National Forests**—*Mike Landram, USDA Forest Service*
- 1:40 – 2:10 **Reforestation Practices and Issues on Large Industrial Forestlands**—*Dan Tomascheski, Sierra Pacific Industries*
- 2:10 – 2:40 **Reforestation Practices and Issues on Non-Industrial Private Forestlands**—*Jim Chapin, Shasta Land Management Consultants*
- 2:40 – 3:00 Break

II-4: Ecological and Environmental Consequences of Alternatives

Moderator: Lorna Dobrovlny

- 3:00 – 3:20 **Wildlife Habitat**—*Don Yasuda, USDA Forest Service*
- 3:20 – 3:40 **Soils and Site Productivity**—*Dave Young, USDA Forest Service, Region 5*
- 3:40 – 4:00 **Watershed Functions**—*Lee MacDonald, Colorado State University*

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II-5: Perspectives and Issues Regarding Post-Fire Management

Moderator: Jim Ostrowski

4:00 – 5:00 Panelists will address the following questions:

- What is your desired post fire restoration objective for federal and private land?
- When (under what conditions) is intervention warranted to increase resiliency?
- What are some good ways to integrate post-fire goals for forest health, wildlife habitat, soil, and water?

Sue Britting, Sierra Forest Legacy

Steve Brink, California Forestry Association

Bill Keye, California Licensed Foresters Association

Jonathan Kusel, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

5:00 Adjourn

Evening Poster Session

Moderator: Susie Kocher

Posters available all day and through evening

5:30 – 7:00 Background information on wildfire, fire behavior, fire regimes, terms and definitions, pre-fire and post-fire treatments. Give participants with diverse backgrounds and levels of expertise a common language and understanding. Poster preparation would also facilitate post-conference follow up materials, web-based proceedings.

Thursday, February 11

III-1: What Does the Future Hold?

Moderator: Susie Kocher

8:00 – 8:15 Introduction—Susie Kocher

8:15 – 8:30 Summary of the first two days—*Dave Graber, National Park Service*

III-2: Breakout Sessions

Moderator: Kimberly Rodrigues

8:30 – 10:15 The audience will be divided into small groups for facilitated discussions. Each group will be asked to develop recommendations for public and private land managers based on their understanding of the body of existing science and the range of public opinion about resource values and management techniques
Each Group will report their findings to the full audience.

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – Noon Panel Impressions of Day 1 and Day 2 - What have we heard that influences, how we do our job and what questions remain? *Note: this discussion should identify some important questions for managers that will be the focus for the breakout discussions.*

Moderator: *Kimberly Rodrigues, UC ANR, North Coast & Mountain Region Office*

Bill Kinney, California Energy Commission

Pete Johnson, W.M. Beaty & Associates, Inc.

Thom Porter, CALFIRE

Tom Quinn, USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest

Ray Sauvajot, National Park Service, Natural Resource Programs, PacWest Region

Noon Adjourn

NOTE: An Optional Work Group Meeting will be offered for interested participants at a date after the conference. The purpose for this group will be to continue discussing the issues that were raised at the conference, leading to recommendations on methods for resolving some of the tough fire-related issues for land managers.