

Fire, Forests, and Water in the Sierra Nevada, California

Many California forests have been altered by 100 years of fire suppression and past harvesting which has increased their hazards and susceptibility to fires with intensities and severities outside of desired ranges. Changing climates have intensified these problems but all is not lost. We evaluated the effects of long-standing natural fire programs in Yosemite National Park, forest restoration projects at UCB Blodgett Forest Research Station, and historical datasets from the central Sierra Nevada from 1911 to provide key information on how to restore frequent fire adapted forests, with generally positive or neutral ecological effects. Today's challenge is to move more quickly to restore large areas of these ecosystems. The next 1-2 decades are absolutely critical in terms of restoration and the conservation of Sierra Nevada forests.



Sierra lodgepole pine 20 yr after fire in Yosemite



Jeffery pine Yosemite Ill creek

Dr. Scott Stephens, Ph.D.

UC Berkeley

Friday, April 5, 2019

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Science 2, room 109

For further information: www.csufresno.edu/biology

Bio: Dr. Stephens is a Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at UC Berkeley. He earned his B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Sacramento State and earned his Ph.D. in Wildland Resource Science for UC Berkeley. His research focuses on the interactions of wildland fire and ecosystems. This includes how prehistoric fires once interacted with ecosystems, how current wildland fires are affecting ecosystems, and how future fires, changing climates, and management may change this interaction. He is also interested in forest and fire policy and how it can be improved to meet the challenges of the next decades, both in the US and internationally. How fire will be affected by climate change is a new area of research (<https://nature.berkeley.edu/stephenslab/>)

If you need a disability-related accommodation or wheelchair access, please contact Lindasue Garner at the Department of Biology at 278-2001 or e-mail l Garner@csufresno.edu (at least one week prior to event).