Forest Health Research Program Grantee Webinar:

Influence of Prescribed Burn Season on Tree Survival, Soil Microbial Resilience, and Carbon Cycling in Sierra Nevada Mixed Conifer Forests

Sydney Glassman, PhD and Peter Homyak, PhD, University of California, Riverside

Robert York, PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Register here

Abstract: Prescribed fire is a controlled fire management strategy adopted to restore a fundamental ecological process and to mitigate high-severity wildfire risks. Historically, most wildfires occurred in summer or fall in California, however, there is a push to conduct spring prescribed burns due to short burn windows. Yet, whether spring fires have the same ecological impacts as fall fires is largely unknown. Here, we test the impacts of prescribed burn season on tree mortality, carbon cycling and bacterial and fungal biomass, richness, and composition, in California montane mixed conifer stands.

Sydney Glassman is an Associate Professor of Microbiology and Plant Pathology at the University of California, Riverside. She is an expert in mycology and soil microbial ecology and is interested in the impacts of fire on soil microbiomes. She works with **Robert York**, Associate Professor of Cooperative Extension at UC Berkeley, and **Peter Homyak**, Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences at UC Riverside, to connect impacts of prescribed fires to tree mortality, soil microbiomes, and carbon cycling.

The Forest Health Research Program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.