

Forest Health Research Program Grantee Webinar:

Dead tree removal after drought-induced tree mortality: implications for mixed conifer forest recovery, fuels, and carbon

Rebecca Wayman and Quinn Sorenson, University of California, Davis



Thursday, November 16, 2023

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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Abstract: In the Sierra Nevada, 129 million trees died during the 2012-2017 severe drought, raising concerns over ecosystem recovery and a massive pulse of dead fuels exacerbating severe wildfire risk. One approach to reducing fuels after tree mortality is to cut and remove dead trees, yet the secondary ecological effects of this practice remain unclear. Our study compares the practice of dead tree removal with no removal following severe drought and insect-induced tree mortality in the Sierra Nevada. We evaluate the initial effects on understory plants, tree regeneration, fuels, and carbon pools.

Rebecca Wayman is a research scientist at UC Davis. Her research focuses on effects and drivers of forest disturbances such as wildfire and drought-induced tree mortality, and ecological impacts of forest management practices. **Quinn Sorenson** is a postdoc at UC Davis with roots in the Sierra Nevada. Schooled at UC Irvine (BS) and UW Madison (PhD), he's studied fire in several areas. Now, he studies forests in the face of wildfire and tree mortality.

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.

