Forest Health Research Program Grantee Webinar:

Natural Range of Variation (NRV) in the montane conifer forests of southern California – what historical conditions can tell us about managing forests in the era of fire suppression and climate change

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and Sarah Hennessey, PhD, USDA Forest Service

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Register here

Abstract: We conducted a natural range of variation (NRV) assessment of montane conifer forests in the Transverse and Peninsular Mountain Ranges of southern California. Using current and historical literature and data, we present a quantitative analysis of forest function, structure, composition, and ecological processes prior to Euro-American settlement and compare those elements to the forests of today. We highlight how grazing, logging and fire suppression have altered natural fire regimes and examine how departure from NRV conditions may inform forest management in the era of climate change.

Dr. John Williams is an ecologist and project scientist in the Department of Environmental Science & Policy at UC Davis. His work focuses on the role of prescribed fire and wildfire on forest ecosystems in California and other Mediterranean-type biomes**. Dr. Sarah Hennessy** is an ecologist working across Southern California for the US Forest Service with a focus in climate-adapted management.

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.