Climate Change and Wildfire in California’s Forests: How might Forest Management affect our Vulnerability to Climate Change?

with

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Wildfire frequency, size and severity in California forests is sensitive to climate change and variability, as well as land management choices. How is the legacy of a century of land management interacting with climate change to shape our forests? How might future land management choices affect vulnerability of our forests to a rapidly changing climate?

Dr. LeRoy Westerling is Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering and Geography at UC Merced. Prior to coming to UC Merced in 2006, he spent six years in the Climate Research Division of Scripps Institution of Oceanography as a Post-graduate Research Meteorologist and an Assistant Project Scientist. His research interests include applied climatology and seasonal forecasting for wildfire management, climate change impacts on wildfire and related aspects of mountain hydrology, and paleo reconstructions of climate-wildfire interactions. Dr. Westerling holds a B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles; and a Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego. He has published extensively on wildfire and climate in the western United States. Dr. Westerling has participated in a wide variety of science outreach activities, including public seminars, policymaker briefings, congressional testimony, Governor Schwarzeneggar’s Task Force on Adaptation to Climate Change, the Southwestern U.S. Climate Assessment, media interviews and documentaries.