

An Introduction to Fire Ecology

April 28, 2012

Fire is one of the most important ecological processes in California. Plant communities throughout the state are uniquely adapted to the timing, severity, and frequency of fire.

In this workshop, we will learn about the adaptations different plant communities and individual plant species have evolved to survive fire, including species that require fire to reproduce. We will discuss characteristic fire regimes of the foothill and lower elevation montane vegetation types around Chico, and examine how these fire regimes have been altered over the past century. We will then head out to the field to visit areas that have recently burned, and look for examples of species with unique adaptations to fire.



The workshop will start in the lab for most of the morning with a lecture presentation and then everyone will meet again in the field to continue the conversation. The field portion of the workshop will visit several different sites – everyone will be responsible for their own transportation. Lunch will be in the field, so please come prepared with food and water.

This workshop will be led by Kyle Merriam. Kyle Merriam is an ecologist for the US Forest Service, where she monitors rare plant species and plant communities to better understand the effects of different Forest Service management practices. Some of her current projects include trying to determine methods for reintroducing fire to rare populations of cypress across northern California, and studying the effects of grazing on a federally threatened grass species. Kyle previously worked for the US Geological Survey where she conducted research on the effects of fuel treatments on non-native plant invasion. She has also worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, where she focused on managing and protecting vernal pool species and ecosystems.



The workshop will meet Saturday, April 28, 2012, starting at 9:00 a.m. in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico and finishing around 4:00 p.m. in the field. The registration fee is \$100.00 personal, \$125.00 business (\$90.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium), \$40.00 student (only 2 seats at this price). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 20 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 10 participants). For more information about workshop content please contact Kyle Merriam at kmerriam@fs.fed.us. For more information about workshop registration please contact the Biology office at (530) 898-5356 or jbraden@csuchico.edu.

Please make your check payable to “Friends of the Herbarium” and mail to
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