



Thom Porter | Director of Emergency Management, San Diego Gas and Electric

Chief Porter retired from CALFIRE in December 2021 after a 23-year career, a career that culminated in his appointment as Director by Governor Gavin Newsom on January 8, 2019. Chief Porter was designated Acting Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on December 14, 2018. He has been serving as Chief of Strategic Planning in CAL FIRE Sacramento Headquarters since January 1, 2018. Previously, he served as the Southern Region Chief, Assistant Region Chief, and San Diego Unit Fire Chief. Chief Porter's depth of fire department management expertise is balanced by his forestry background. He is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) in California with a Bachelor of Forestry Degree from the University of California Berkeley.

Talk: *Keynote Speech*



Drew Coe, MS | Watershed Protection Program Manager, CALFIRE

Drew Coe leads the Forest Practice Watershed Protection Program for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), which monitors timber harvesting activities, with the goal of determining the effectiveness of the Forest Practice Rules in achieving desired resource objectives. Drew has worked for the Watershed Protection Program in a variety of positions since 2014, taking on his current leadership role in 2021. Prior to his time with CALFIRE, he worked for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in Redding and the Nooksack Indian Tribe in Washington state. He is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) in California with a Master of Science Degree from Colorado State University and a Bachelor of Forestry Degree from the Humboldt State University (now Cal Poly Humboldt).

Talk: *Megafires, Soils & Post-Fire Watershed Hazards*



Gabrielle Boisramé, PhD | Assistant Research Professor, Desert Research Institute

Dr. Boisrame is originally from Winters, California - an area often affected by both wildfire and water shortages. She is currently an assistant research professor in the hydrologic science division of Nevada's Desert Research Institute (DRI). She received her PhD in environmental engineering from UC Berkeley after majoring in applied mathematics at Whitman College. The majority of Dr. Boisrame's research focuses on the interactions between land use/cover changes and water in mountain regions of the Western USA in the context of climate change. Since 2013 she has been using a combination of fieldwork, remote sensing, and hydrological modeling to explore how managing natural wildfire in landscapes can improve water resources and forest health. Before coming to DRI, Dr. Boisrame worked as an environmental scientist for the Delta Stewardship Council, a California State Agency. In this position, she studied adaptive management strategies for increasing water supply reliability and calculated large-scale water budgets.

Talk: *Wildfire Impacts on Water Supply*



Gavin Jones, PhD | Research Ecologist, USFS

Dr. Jones runs the Jones Applied Quantitative Ecology Lab, which operates as a close partnership between the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station and the University of New Mexico. Much of the Lab's current research focuses on how wildlife respond to fire and forest management, and the ecology and conservation of wildlife in fire-prone ecosystems. Previously, Dr. Jones held a position as a Postdoc in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. Dr. Jones received his PhD and M.S. from University of Wisconsin-Madison in Wildlife Ecology, and his B.S. from the same institution in Zoology.

Talk: *The Impacts of Megafires on Old-Forest Species*



Mark Finney, PhD | Research Forester, Missoula Fire Laboratory - USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station

Dr. Finney has been a Research Forester with the US Forest Service, Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory since 1993. He leads a research team on wildfire behavior, fire modeling, wildfire risk analysis, and ignition by firearms and explosives. A major part of his work is to understand the physics of wildfire spread using laboratory and field-scale experiments. Dr. Finney's current research focuses on the study of physical processes in fire spread using laboratory and field experiments to examine many of the fire behaviors that are not understood or easily predicted today (such as thresholds in spread & crown fire). Dr. Finney holds a PhD in Wildland Fire Science from UC Berkeley, an M.S. in Fire Ecology from University of Washington and a B.S. in Forest Management & Fire Science from Colorado State University.

Talk: *The Impacts of Well-Placed Forest Management Activities on the Protection of our Resources*



Mark Egbert | District Manager, Georgetown Divide & El Dorado Resource Conservation Districts

Mark has been involved in Resource Conservation since 2002 where his accomplishments have earned him recognition from the NRCS, USFS, California Farm Bureau, CAL FIRE, County Supervisors, California State Assembly, California Senate, and a Congressional Achievement award. His work has focused on Storm water management, watershed management, education, environmental planning, reforestation, forest management, lake reconstruction and restoration, and building collaborative management groups to address complex and multijurisdictional issues. Mark has a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Portland State University.

Talk: *Implementing Active Forest Management Across Jurisdictions and Interests*



Juli Stewart | Co-Owner and Forester, Vermilion Resource Management

Juli is a Registered Professional Forester and Co-owner of Vermilion Resource Management, Inc. – a forestry and environmental consulting firm providing services to a diverse set of clients, including small private landowners, researchers, universities, agencies and public utilities. She has been living and working in the Shaver Lake area since 2006 and played an integral role in the creation of the Central Sierra Resiliency Fund, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering the local community to lead revitalization efforts following the 2020 Creek Fire. Juli currently serves as Council member for the Fund. Prior to forming Vermilion Resource Management, Juli worked for Southern California Edison Forestry, using prescribed fire and applied silviculture to manage the Company-owned lands for water, wildlife, recreation and timber. Juli holds a B.S. Degree in Forestry from Humboldt State.

Talk: *Community Forestry – Making it Happen at the Local Level*



Kristin Rathmann Telles | Council Member, Central Sierra Resiliency Fund

Kristin grew up spending lots of time in the Sierras—at Bass Lake, Huntington Lake, and the YMCA camps at Sequoia Lake, specifically. Though they live on the Valley floor, she and her husband, Connor, have a cabin at Huntington Lake and spend considerable time there. They both love recreating in the outdoors with their two children—skiing, hiking, exploring, and playing in the lake. Kristin has a degree in History from UCLA, a Social Studies teaching credential and a Masters of Teaching. While raising her family, she spent seven years serving on the Board of Directors for San Joaquin Valley Town Hall and several years volunteering in the library at the kids’ school. Both her time with Town Hall and her time in the library have strengthened her love of words, history and the stories, places and experiences that connect us.

Talk: *Community Forestry – Making it Happen at the Local Level*



Jim McDougald | Division Chief, Home Hardening Program, CAL FIRE

Chief McDougald has worked as an emergency responder since 1992, working for CALFIRE since 1994. In 1998 he left state service to work as a ranch manager, but returned in 2001 to the Madera, Mariposa, Merced Unit as an Engineer, working in both municipal and wildland fire stations. Chief McDougald was promoted to Battalion Chief in 2010 where he was the Pre-Fire Coordinator for the Southern Region. In 2014 he was promoted to Assistant Chief in the Fresno Kings Unit as the Protection Planning Chief where he oversaw the Fire Prevention Bureau, Resource Management and Pre-Fire Programs as well as Protection and Planning for the Fresno County Fire Protection District.

Break-Out Session: *Engaging with Regional Forestry Leadership*



Rich Gordon | Immediate Past President/CEO of the California Forestry Association

Rich Gordon recently retired from his role as President and CEO of the California Forestry Association, the trade association for the forest resources industry. Gordon has spent many years in public service, most recently as a member of the California State Assembly and as Chair of the Rules Committee for three different Speakers. Gordon has also served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and as the President of the California State Association of Counties. Prior to public service his vocation was as a minister in the United Methodist Church, and for twenty years he worked in the nonprofit sector, where he was the founder and Executive Director of Youth and Family Assistance. Rich Gordon graduated from the University of Southern California and he has a Masters in Divinity from Garrett Theological Seminary at Northwestern University.

Break-Out Session: *Identifying & Working with Key Decision Makers at the State Level and Beyond*



Dennis Rein | Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Moraga Orinda Fire District

Dennis has over 40 years of experience managing emergencies in the East Bay. He joined Moraga Orinda Fire District as their Emergency Preparedness Coordinator in 2011, playing a critical role in implementing multiple fuels reduction efforts on the District – most notably the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break, which brought together dozens of landowners (both public and private) to create a 1,400 acre, 19 mile long shaded fuel break in Contra Costa County. After graduating from the School of Forestry at Oregon State University in 1976, he began his career working for the East Bay Municipal Utility District as a Watershed Ranger at the San Pablo Reservoir. He served as a Reserve Firefighter for Contra Costa County, a Park Ranger with the National Park Service, and a police officer and firefighter for the Regional Park District. Dennis promoted up through the ranks at the East Bay Regional Parks and was promoted to Fire Chief in 2001, retiring from that position in 2006.

Talk: *Encouraging Community Support for Forest and Fuels Management*



Ryan Tompkins | Forester & Natural Resource Advisor for Plumas, Sierra and Lassen Counties, UCANR

Ryans Tompkins joined UC Cooperative Extension as a forestry and natural resources in early 2019, serving Plumas, Sierra and Lassen counties. Prior to joining UCCE, Tompkins held forester positions with the U.S. Forest Service, worked in the fire effects program with the National Park Service and served as associate faculty in the Environmental Studies Department at Feather River College, teaching forest ecology and management. Most recently, Tompkins served as the forest silviculturist and vegetation program manager at the Plumas National Forest, where he designed, planned and implemented landscape-scale forest restoration projects. Tompkins earned Master of Forestry and a B.S. of Forestry from UC Berkeley..

Break-Out Session: *Getting work done on Federal Land*

Thank you to our break-out session note takers – all of whom are students from California forestry programs:

Katie Low | University of California, Berkeley

Connor Ryan | University of California, Berkeley

Jordan Inzunza | University of California, Berkeley

Ryan Godley | Bakersfield College