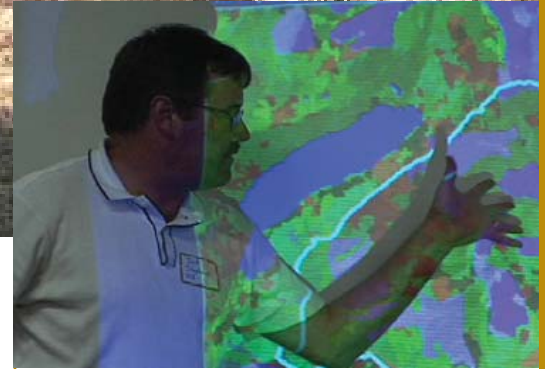


FIRE BEHAVIOR: WILDFIRE AND OLD-GROWTH JEFFREY PINE-MIXED CONIFER FORESTS

DR. SCOTT STEPHENS (UC BERKELEY)



Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2007
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Lecture begins promptly at 6:00 p.m.
Cost: \$5 donation requested. Includes a No-Host Bar.
Location: Assembly Rooms A & B, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences
291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village, Nevada
(on the campus of Sierra Nevada College)



Dr. Scott Stephens, UC Berkeley, is interested in the interactions of wildland fire and ecosystems. This includes how prehistoric fires once interacted with ecosystems, how current wildland fires are affecting ecosystems, and how future fires and management may change this interaction. How can wildland fire policy be improved to meet the challenges of the next decades? How will fire be affected by climate change?

Wildland fires typically have very complex behaviors. They are affected by changes in fuels, topography, weather, and ignition patterns. This diverse behavior produces equally diverse effects. To predict fire effects you must first quantify fire behavior and fuel consumption, fire size, fire season, and past fire occurrence. In many cases the use of replicated experimental prescribed fires are necessary to make inferences. Information from these studies can then be used to develop quantitative models.

Currently there is substantial debate on how or if land managers should reduce fuel hazards or engage in salvage logging. Dr. Stephens has given testimony on this topic on three occasions at the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Forest and Forest Health and Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. He believes the central question in this debate is the definition of desired future conditions for our diverse ecosystems. Once we have this then we must decide what management tools are appropriate to achieve and maintain the desired conditions.