

“The Kings River Fisher Project – the ecology and habitat needs of a secretive species in the southern Sierra Nevada”



Fishers are a forest dwelling member of the weasel family native to North America. In the late 19th and 20th century fisher populations declined throughout their range, primarily due to fur trapping and habitat loss related to logging. Once trapping bans and timber harvest restrictions were instituted the species recovered in many regions. In California, populations didn't rebound following trapping bans. The fisher population in the southern Sierra Nevada is estimated at approximately 300 individuals. Isolated and with low genetic diversity, California has deemed the southern Sierra Nevada population warranted for listing as threatened but the species was denied listing by the US Fish and Wildlife Service after years of consideration. The Kings River Fisher Project is a long-term study on fisher demography and habitat selection, providing new information on reproductive rates, causes of mortality, and the species' response to forest management activity. Current work focuses on response to wave of tree mortality in the Sierra Nevada due to drought and bark beetles.

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Friday, September 29, 2017

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Science 2, room 109

For further information: www.csufresno.edu/biology

Bio: Dr. Purcell earned a B.S. from the University of California , Davis before working on an M.S at Humboldt State University. Subsequently she earned her Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology at the University of Nevada, Reno. Since joining the U.S. Forest Service, Dr. Purcell has examined a broad range of ecological questions ranging from bird population trends and response to climate change, to the impact of European starlings (an invasive species), in addition to examining western pond turtle response to drought, and fisher ecology and habitat selection.