

COAST REDWOOD FIRE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

An online workshop was conducted on Sept 30, 2009 entitled, "Fire and fuels management in coast redwood forests" for managers and others. The two hour 20 minute event successfully brought a broad range of managers together from across northern California and the US without the expenses normally associated with travel. Due to travel restrictions, several people were in attendance that would otherwise not have been able to attend.

There were 32 participants representing Redwood National Park, California State Parks of two different districts, Bureau of Land Management, US Geological Survey, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, The Nature Conservancy, UC Davis Cooperative Extension Service, Humboldt State University, a private timber company, the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station and the Forest Service Southern Research Station. The audio-visual workshop consisted of two half hour presentations by Drs. Steve Norman and Morgan Varner, followed by a period of questions and discussion.

Agenda:

Introductions-- Yana Valachovic, UC Davis Extension

Changing fire regimes of coast redwood forests—Dr. Steve Norman

- Fire in coast redwood: a brief introduction
- Fire regimes from fire cavity attributes
- Fire regimes inferred from fire scars
- Interpretation and management implications

Reference condition fuels in old growth coast redwood ecosystems—Bradley Graham and Dr. J Morgan Varner

- Rationale for the study
- How much fuel?
- What is the variation across stands?
- Are estimators fair approximations?
- What patterns emerge from surveying several stands?
- How does redwood fit with other forested ecosystems?
- How does fire affect redwood fuel loading?

Discussion points:

- Whether to burn old growth
- Tradeoffs and obstacles related to wildfire management and prescribed fire use
- Manager's plans to burn in coming years and research opportunities

Presentations will be made available online with a sound track accessible through the project website:
<http://www.redwood.forestthreats.org>.

Submitted files:

- Norman_2009_RedwoodWorkshop.ppt
- Varner_2009_RedwoodWorkshop.ppt