Management and Conservation of Pinyon and Juniper Woodlands

Public Workshop Hosted by the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service

Agenda Overview

May 8: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. PT; May 9: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PT

Nugget Casino Resort

1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV 89431

To attend the event, individuals are required to reserve a spot. This is a two-day workshop, but you must register for both days to attend. To attend on May 8, please register through the Eventbrite portal for day one here online: May 8 registration link. To attend on May 9, please register through the Eventbrite portal for day two here online: May 9 registration link.

Portions of the workshop will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person. Breakout and discussion sessions will not be available for virtual participation. For more details on the livestream and how to register, visit the webinar site Virtual Option Registration Link.

Desired Outcomes

This workshop aims to create a venue for information sharing among federal agencies, other land managers, Tribes, public land users and stakeholders, nongovernmental organizations, state and local governments and other interested entities on the range of ecosystem science and knowledge, management trends, social and cultural values, existing and potential threats, and climate resilience of pinyon and juniper woodlands, particularly mature and old-growth forests.

Topic Overview

The workshop consists of a set of presentations and panels with opportunities for the audience to engage with the presenters, other experts, and each other. Local Tribal presenters have been invited to share their perspectives on these topics and stewardship of pinyon and juniper woodlands.

Mature and Old Growth Pinyon and Juniper Woodlands

- Presentation overviewing the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service's national inventory and threat analysis of mature and old-growth forests, completed under Executive Order 14072. The presentation will focus on findings for pinyon and juniper woodlands.

Pinyon Juniper Ecology

- Exploration of the historical context and distribution of the various types of pinyon-juniper systems, current conditions, and the values associated with old-growth pinyon and juniper woodlands. Speakers will discuss wildlife species that inhabit pinyon and juniper woodlands and ecosystem function.

Trends and Threats

- Exploration of the current trends associated with pinyon and juniper woodlands, including geographic and population dynamics, such as contraction, expansion, and future conditions. Speakers will discuss climate impacts on pinyon-juniper systems and opportunities for increasing woodland resiliency.
- *Management of Pinyon and Juniper Woodlands*
- Speakers will discuss management goals and methods in pinyon and juniper woodlands related to habitat improvement, fuels, and forest health.

Interactive Opportunities

- Throughout the workshop, audience members will be able to participate in question-and-answer sessions after presentations.

- Audience members can visit with presenters and other exhibitors to chat one on one with leading experts in pinyon-juniper ecosystems and management.
- Pinyon Juniper Genetics Project – Virtual presentation on the project with an opportunity for future participation in field sampling from the audience.
- Public comment opportunity – After the workshop, participants are encouraged to submit comments to the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service regarding future management of pinyon and juniper woodlands.

Confirmed Speakers:

Aaron Kamoske
Ecological Analyst, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Education
B.S., 2015, University of Montana (Natural Resource Conservation)
M.S., 2018, Michigan State University (Spatial Ecology)
PhD, 2021, Michigan State University (Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences)
Dr. Aaron Kamoske is an ecological analyst at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. With a background in conservation and field ecology, Dr. Kamoske focuses on finding management solutions for our nation's natural resources. Aaron also earned a PhD in Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences from Michigan State University.

Miranda Redmond
Assistant Professor, Forest Science and Climate Change
https://ourenvironment.berkeley.edu/users/255705
Education
B.S., 2009, University of California, Berkeley (Environmental Science, Minor Forestry)
Ph.D. 2015, University of Colorado, Boulder (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology)
Dr. Miranda Redmond is an assistant professor in the Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at University of California, Berkeley. With a PhD from the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Dr. Redmond focuses on understanding the effect of climate and disturbances on forest dynamics as a way of informing land management decisions. Specifically, Dr. Redmond identifies strategies to enhance forest resilience to global change and to meet diverse management objectives.

Peter Weisberg
Professor, Landscape Ecology
https://www.unr.edu/eecb/people/peter-weisberg
Education
B.S., 1992, SUNY College of Env. Science and Forestry (Forest Biology)
M.S., 1994, University of Wyoming (Biogeography)
PhD, 1998 Oregon State University (Forest Ecology)
Head of the Weisberg lab at the University of Nevada, Reno, Dr. Peter Weisberg leads the way in researching landscape dynamics for the overall goal of understanding the support needed for sound natural resource management. Dr. Weisberg's research spans across many concentrations, notably focusing on fire-climate-vegetation interactions and forest morality and ecosystem resilience. Dr. Weisberg works internationally but has a special geographical focus on the landscapes of the Great Basin and eastern Sierras.

Robert Shriver
Assistant Professor, Plant Ecology & Population Biology
https://www.unr.edu/nres/shriver-robert
Education
B.S. University of Wyoming, 2011
Ph.D. Duke University, 2017
Quantitative ecologist, Dr. Robert Shriver, is an assistant professor of Plant Ecology and Population Biology at the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Shriver's research concentrates on the mechanisms that drive plant population and ecosystem dynamics ranging all the way from plots to landscapes. Overall, Dr. Shriver aims to use his research to anticipate and predict the impacts of environmental change in basic and applied settings.

Ali Urza
Research Ecologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station
https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/about/people/aurza#education-tab
Education
B.A. Reed College, 2006 (International Policy Studies)
M.S. Colorado State University, 2012 (Ecology)
Ph.D. University of Nevada-Reno (Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology)
Dr. Alexandra Urza is a research ecologist with the Maintaining Resilient Dryland Ecosystems Science Program of the Rocky Mountain Research Station in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Dr. Urza has a background in understanding the multi-scale drivers of vegetation dynamics at the woodland-shrubland interface in the Great Basin, climate effects on post-fire mixed conifer forest recovery in the Northern Rockies, and aspen responses to management efforts in Wyoming. With this experience, Dr. Urza looks at the ways plant communities respond to various disturbances to analyze the threats that dryland ecosystems in the west are facing.

John Boone
Great Basin Bird Observatory
https://www.gbbo.org/gbbo-staff-gallery/john-boone
Education
B.S. George Washington University, 1985 (Biology)
M.S. Idaho State University, 1990 (Biology/Biological Statistics)
Ph.D. University of Colorado at Boulder, 1995 (Biology/Biological Statistics)
Dr. John Boone is the Great Basin Bird Observatory's Research Director. By heading up projects like radiotelemetry studies of Pinyon Jays and Greater Sage-Grouse, nest monitoring of Golden Eagles, and research to improve methods of monitoring Elf Owls along the Lower Colorado River, Dr. Boone provides conservation science and planning service to land management agencies and other entities.

Ian Barrett
Project Manager and Fuel Program Lead, Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management
Ipbarrett@blm.gov
BS in Forestry, Colorado State University
Ian began his career with the federal government in 2006 as fuels technician. He has split his time between the BLM and USFS, predominantly in Colorado. Dedicated to managing fire and its effect on the landscape, he has worked on fuels, fire-use, hotshot, and helitack crews before transitioning into fuels as a specialist and eventually fuels program manager for the BLM Colorado State Office.

Steve Belinda
Chief Conservation Officer, Mule Deer Foundation
https://muledeer.org/steve-belinda/
Education
B.S. Pennsylvania State University, 1992 (Wildlife and Fisheries Science)
M.S. University of Wyoming, 1998 (Environmental Policy)
Steve Belinda provides the Mule Deer Foundation leadership on all things related to mule and black-tailed deer conservation as the Chief Conservation Officer with the Mule Deer Foundation and is a Fellow of the Wildlife Society and the National Conservation Leadership Institute. Steve's experience in federal agencies, the private sector, and non-profit conservation worlds, provide a unique skill set with over 25 years of experience in successfully working towards the conservation of natural resources and the professional management of fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Pete Coates
Research Wildlife Biologist, USGS Western Ecological Research Center
https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/peter-coates
Education
B.S. University of Nevada Reno, 1998 (Conservation Biology)
M.S. University of Nevada Reno, 2001 (Biology)
Ph.D. Idaho State University, 2007 (Biology)
Dr. Pete Coates is a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Western Ecological Research Center. Dr. Coates is interested in sound science and management practices aimed at restoring wildlife communities and their habitats and is committed to progressive, scientifically defensible conservation actions in the face of increasing human population size and individual consumption. Specifically, Dr. Coates is interested in investigating the links between nesting habitat, predator composition, and incubation behavior and success of birds. Dr. Coates seeks to develop a broader understanding of how human-caused landscape changes affect communities and aim to identify restoration practices that preserve natural ecological processes. He is also interested in behavioral traits of grouse that affect population establishment and persistence in the face of environmental challenges.