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The fate of the Pacific fisher the topic of Fresno convocation



See end of release for high-resolution version.

Note: To see a one-minute video, "What is a Pacific Fisher?" on YouTube, go to <http://tinyurl.com/pacificfisher>.

The early results of research on Pacific fishers, elusive and ferocious mammals whose California population is in decline, will be addressed by scientists, environmentalists and forest managers convening in Fresno July 15. The public is welcome to attend.

The meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno. It will be simulcast on the Web at <https://breeze.ucdavis.edu/snampfisherit2>, with audio on the phone at (877) 221-1900 (Passcode 8962143).

For two years, UC researchers have been tracking Pacific fishers in the Sierra Nevada to study why the weasel-like animals' population is retracting southward and diminishing in number. So far researchers have tracked, radio-collared and followed a total of 45 fishers; about 25 are still alive, according to Reginald Barrett, UC Berkeley professor of wildlife ecology and management.

"Three things are causing fisher mortality," Barrett said, "predation by carnivores like mountain lions, diseases like canine distemper and road kill."

The fisher research study is one aspect of the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project, a joint effort by the University of California, state and federal agencies, and the public to study management of forest lands in the Sierra Nevada.

"Our goal is ultimately to see how fishers respond to forest treatments that will reduce the intensity of forest fires," said Susan Kocher, UC Cooperative Extension natural resources advisor who is a member of the project's public participation team. "The fisher meeting will help scientists, forestry professionals, the public, everyone gain greater understanding about how this research can inform future forest management decisions."

For more information about the meeting or to RSVP, contact Anne Lombardo, amlombardo@ucdavis.edu.



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