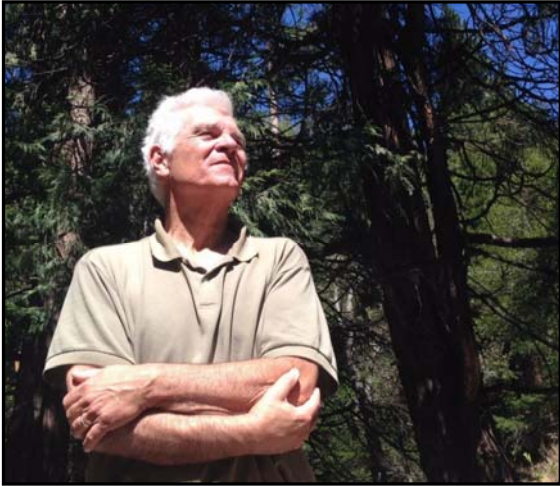


What Can We Learn From the 2020 Fires?



Presentation By:
Richard Minnich
UCR Professor of Earth Sciences

According to the California Department of Forestry, more than 4.13 million acres (6,450 square miles) of our state have burned in 2020 (so far). More than 9,200 structures have been damaged or destroyed and 31 people have died. Five of the six largest fires in California’s history occurred this year.

Fires have become a part of living in California. How we manage the terrain, allow development in wooded areas, and fight wildfires is a controversial matter with differing opinions among scientists, fire fighters, politicians, and the general public. Should we thin forests? If so, how? How effective are controlled burns? Should we let wildfires burn in some cases to prevent a “really big fire” from doing major damage to life and property? How have the emergence of non-native plant and animal species lessened or heightened the fire risk in our region?

UCR Professor of Earth Science Richard Minnich studies the fire ecology of Southern California, Baja California, and temperate Mexico. Minnich compares and contrasts how fire management suppression policies in Southern California and Baja California differ and how those differences have affected the fire-health of wildlands in the two regions.

Minnich joined UCR in 1980. He earned his Ph.D from the UCLA. His research focuses on the ecology of the Mediterranean ecosystem, including chaparral and forests in Southern California and northern Mexico, including the causes, prevention, and fighting of wildfires. Minnich has given numerous interviews on fire ecology, including problems that can arise due to fire suppression, the impact of dry weather and drought on wildfires, and solutions to addressing wildfires.



This CUC “Virtual Meeting” Will Be Free of Charge!

There are Three Easy Ways to Participate:

Join Zoom Meeting (Preferred Method):

1. Go to: <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/92475496015?pwd=VzBVajZSZXZ2ZlTlPQkxPR2hvWnZaZz09>
2. Enter the Meeting ID: 924 7549 6015
3. Enter the Passcode: CUC

Join by Calling In By Phone:

1. Call: (669) 900-6833
2. When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 924 7549 6015
3. Enter the Passcode: CUC

Join by Viewing Through Your Internet Browser:

If you would like to participate in the meeting without downloading the Zoom software, you can access the meeting using your internet browser.

- 1) Go to the website: <https://zoom.us>
- 2) Click on “Join A Meeting” in the upper right hand portion of your screen
- 3) Enter the “Meeting ID” - 924 7549 6015
- 4) Enter the Passcode: CUC
- 5) Click “Join”