

Water expert to speak at El Dorado County supes meeting

Richard Bales, director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute at U.C. Merced, will present new research on the beneficial impacts to water resources from sound forest management.

In a recently published paper, Bales makes the case that the Sierra Nevada Watershed Ecosystem Enhancement Project could increase water yield from forests and extend the retention of snowpack in the spring, both of which will translate into more water at the right time of year for the rest of California. Initial estimates suggest that reducing forest cover by 40 percent of maximum levels across a watershed could increase water yields by about 9 percent. Sustained, extensive treatments in dense Sierra Nevada forests could increase water yield by up to 16 percent.

Bales' presentation is sponsored by El Dorado County Supervisor Ray Nutting and El Dorado County Water Agency General Manager Dave Eggerton.

The presentation is scheduled for 2pm March 20 at the Board of Supervisors meeting, 330 Fair Lane in Placerville. There will be time for discussion following the presentation.