

USFS prevents scientist from talking about study

By Amy Quinton, Capital Public Radio

The U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station won't let forest ecologist Malcolm North talk about the study he authored in the journal *Science*.

The agency even unsuccessfully requested that *Science* editors hold the article or remove North's name and affiliation from the peer-reviewed study.

The paper "Reform Forest Fire Management" says suppressing every fire in overgrown forests is not only expensive but dangerous and ill-advised.

Strong words perhaps, but UC Berkeley Fire Scientist Scott Stephens, who co-authored the paper, says they are not controversial.

"I read the paper many times," says Stephens. "I just didn't see something jump, like this would be something that would really cause great problems."

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