

TOPIC: Fire and Cannabis

Title: Land Use Change, Fire, and Cannabis

For decades cannabis has played an important role in many California communities, providing income to rural residents and transforming local ecologies. Recent legalization and regulation of cannabis production and consumption in California is an unprecedented change in public policy and may have profound impacts on the environment and communities across the state. At this moment of change there is a need for scholarship on cannabis-producing communities and their relation to the natural environment, including land use change. In this talk Dr. Butsic will describe cannabis expansion across four counties in California, explore the underlying factors which lead to cannabis expansion in these areas, and speculate on the future of cannabis as a driver of land use change in California.

Presenter: Van Butsic, University of California Berkeley

Van Butsic is an Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist and Adjunct Professor at UC Berkeley in the department of Environmental Science Policy and Management where he conducts research on land system science, fire and forest policy, land use planning, and coupled human and natural systems. He holds a PhD in Forestry and MS in Agricultural and Applied Economics both from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and a BA in economics from Reed College.