



Wildfires, Protecting Communities, and Fighting Global Warming

**A talk by Dr. Thomas M. Bonnicksen
Research Scholar in Residence**

**Tuesday, March 18, 2008
7:00 p.m.**

Kennedy Library, Room 510-B

Forests and forestry are playing an increasingly important role in sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, especially during a period of rising concerns about global warming. The State of California is committed to reducing greenhouse gases, but these efforts are wasted when catastrophic fires spew huge amounts of harmful gases into the atmosphere and CO₂ is emitted for decades afterward as trees decay. Reducing the number and severity of wildfires may be the single most important action we can take in the short-term to lower greenhouse gas emissions and fight global warming. Removing dead trees and replanting a new forest after a wildfire can also reverse the impact on global warming. The talk will focus on these issues and present the latest findings using the new Forest Carbon and Emissions Model (FCEM) created by Dr. Bonnicksen.

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Dr. Bonnicksen earned a B.S. in forestry, M.S. in forest ecology, and Ph.D. in forest policy from the University of California-Berkeley. He is Professor Emeritus of forest science and a former Department Head at Texas A&M University, former professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Research Scholar in Residence at Cal Poly. His work emphasizes the history, restoration, and contributions to reducing climate change of North America's forests.

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