

# Sierra Nevada Conservancy

## 2007 Symposium on Climate Change

### Presenter Biographies

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#### Plenary

#### **DAN CAYAN:**

*Scripps Institution of Oceanography/U.S. Geological Survey*

Dr. Daniel R. Cayan is a Research Meteorologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), University of California, San Diego, and is also a Researcher in the U.S. Geological Survey. His work is aimed at understanding climate variability and changes over the Pacific Ocean and North America. Specific interests concern impacts of climate changes on water resources and other sectors in western North America.

Cayan heads the California Applications Program, and the California Climate Change Center, climate research programs to improve climate information and forecasts for decision makers in the California region; see <http://meteora.ucsd.edu/cap/>.

Cayan received a BS degree in Meteorology and Oceanography in 1971 from the University of Michigan. He received a Ph.D. in Oceanography in 1990 from the University of California, San Diego. He has been employed by Scripps since 1977 and by the U. S. Geological Survey Water Resources Division since 1991.

#### **Session 1a) IMPACTS ON SNOW & WATER**

#### **DAVE BRENINGER**

*General Manager, Placer County Water Agency*

David Breninger is General Manager of the Placer County Water Agency, a position he's held since January 1992. Breninger manages the Agency's multifaceted water resources. This includes the Agency's 224-megawatt hydroelectric system of dams and power plants in the Sierra Nevada and the Agency's expansive water delivery system that sustains homes, farms, the economy and ecosystems in cities and communities across Placer County. Additionally, he is Executive Director of the Middle Fork Project Finance Authority and Executive Director of the American River Authority.

Breninger serves on several governing boards, including: Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), National Water Resources Association (NWRA), California Municipal Utilities Association

(CMUA), Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC), Northern California Power Authority (NCPA) and the Sacramento Regional Water Authority (RWA). He is Chair of the ACWA Local Government Committee and former Chair of ACWA Region 3 (counties of the Sierra Nevada watershed). Breninger is also a member of the National River Management Society (RMS).

## SUDEEP CHANDRA

*University of Nevada-Reno*

Dr. Sudeep Chandra graduated in 2003 with a Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis. Currently, Chandra is an Assistant Professor at [University of Nevada - Reno](#). He has classical training in limnology evaluating the impact of land use change on freshwater ecosystems. After receiving a multi-year fellowship from the [U.C. Davis Toxic Substances Research and Teaching Program](#) to investigate impacts of gold and mercury mining on the transfer of mercury into fish, Chandra has been studying the conservation potential of the threatened Lahontan Cutthroat trout in the waters of the Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Lake watersheds. Taking an ecosystem-based approach, he has evaluated the impact of historical nonnative species introductions and nutrient loading on the food web structure of the lake. An advocate of the conservation of freshwater resources, Chandra recently became an advisor to the Paiute tribe of Pyramid Lake as they try to restore the cutthroat trout and the endangered Cui-ui. In 1997, he participated in the [Tahoe-Baikal Institute](#) environmental exchange program where he co-investigated studies evaluating the eutrophication and mercury levels of Barguzin Bay, Lake Baikal.

## FRANK GEHRKE

*California Department of Water Resources*

Frank Gehrke is Chief, Snow Surveys, for the California Department of Water Resources. Gehrke joined the snow surveys section in 1987. Prior to that he worked for the Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, and in private consulting. Mr. Gehrke is the Past General Chair of the Western Snow Conference. He became interested in snow surveys and water supply forecasting while working as the district engineer for the Big Bear Municipal Water District and subsequently reactivated snow surveys on the Santa Ana River.

## LORRAINE E. FLINT

*U.S. Geological Survey*

Dr. Flint is a research hydrologist and has worked with the USGS since 1986. She spent 11 years on the Yucca Mountain Project in southern Nevada, working on unsaturated zone hydrology, rock properties, and infiltration processes in arid environments. Since coming to the California Water Science Center in Sacramento in 1997, she has been involved in regional-scale recharge studies throughout the southwest, basin-scale rainfall-runoff and sediment transport modeling, and reach-scale floodplain sedimentation studies and hydrodynamic modeling. More recently she has been involved in investigating the influence of climate change on snow processes and water availability in the western U.S.

## **JONAS MINTON**

*Planning and Conservation League*

Mr. Minton serves as a Water Policy Advisor to the Planning and Conservation League, working on issues surrounding water use and water policy. He is the former Deputy Director of the California Department of Water Resources. As Deputy Director of DWR, Minton was responsible for overseeing the Divisions of Planning, Local Assistance, Flood Management, Dam Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Transfers. Minton also managed the update to the State Water Plan, the Floodplain Management Task Force, the Recycled Water Task Force, and the Desalination Task Force. He previously has served as Executive Director of the Sacramento Water Forum and General Manager of the El Dorado County Water Agency. In the 1980s, Minton served on the team that secured Federal Wild and Scenic River protection for more than 1,200 miles of California rivers.

## **Session 1b) IMPACTS ON SIERRA LANDSCAPES**

### **MARK NECHODOM**

*USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station*

Dr. Mark Nechodom is the Climate Science Policy Coordinator for the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service. He is also a research scientist at the Sierra Nevada Research Center, a multi-disciplinary research unit in Davis, California, that is part of the Pacific Southwest Research Station. Nechodom is actively involved in development of policy and research in support of California's Global Warming Solutions Act, or AB 32, and serves as a federal liaison to state agencies and NGOs working on climate change strategies and policies. His current research uses life cycle assessment modeling (LCA) to identify the economic and environmental impacts of biomass-to-energy production. He also leads teams of researchers focused on carbon cycling in forest ecosystems, including wildfire effects and greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the last decade, Nechodom served as Senior Social Scientist for the Sierra Nevada Framework, which directs management of 11 million acres of national forest land in California. Nechodom also led the social science team involved in the Lake Tahoe Basin Science Assessment, a major synthesis of scientific information related to the environmental conditions of the region. In the 1990s, he established the Natural Resources Policy and Education Program at California State University, Sacramento, and subsequently co-founded and directed the Land Use and Natural Resources Program at the University of California, Davis. He is currently a visiting scholar and occasional lecturer at the University of California, Davis.

Nechodom completed his Ph.D. in political theory and environmental policy in 1998 at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

## **TOM BONNICKSEN**

*Professor Emeritus, Texas A&M University*

Dr. Bonnicksen earned a B.S. in forestry (with minors in wildlife and range management), an 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 and Research Scholar in Residence at California Polytechnic State University. He joined the faculty at Texas A&M University after working as a professor of forestry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His work over more than 35 years emphasizes the history and restoration of North America's forests. Bonnicksen also is Visiting Scholar and board member of the Forest Foundation in California and Scientific Advisor to the Temperate Forest Foundation in Oregon. He is cofounder and former Board member of the International Society for Ecological Restoration. He also held posts as president, chair, and vice-chair of several other organizations, including the Bay Area Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. Bonnicksen also is a U.S. Navy veteran and former U. S. National Park Service ranger.

Most recently, Bonnicksen created the Forest Carbon and Emissions Model (FCEM) that quickly and inexpensively, using easily accessible data, estimates forest carbon and emissions related information using a minimum of input data for wildfires, insect infestations, and inventories of existing and sequestered carbon on forestlands and brushlands. This program is especially important for dealing with issues associated with global climate change.

## **CAROL KENNEDY**

*Tahoe National Forest*

Carol Kennedy is the Forest Soil Scientist and Watershed Program Manager on the Tahoe National Forest, where she has worked since 1989. She is the Tahoe National Forest's expert on climate effects on Sierra Nevada forests. Kennedy graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and has worked for the Bureau of Land Management, Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service.

## **MIKE SKUJA**

*Defenders of Wildlife*

Mike Skuja joined Defenders of Wildlife as California Representative in mid-January 2007. His work spans conservation activities throughout the state, but focuses on the recovery of threatened and endangered species in the California Desert and the Sierra Nevada. He works with diverse stakeholders in both areas and is a member of the Desert Managers Group, the Mohave Ground Squirrel Technical Advisory Group, and also participates in the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Plan technical committee on triggers and thresholds. Before coming to Defenders, Skuja was a program officer in the Ecosystem, Assessment and Policy Division of the United Nations' Environment Programme - World Conservation and Monitoring Centre; the biodiversity branch within UNEP. Skuja has also been a field biologist working in various locales throughout the developing world. Mike has an M.S. in Biodiversity

Conservation and Management from the University of Oxford and studied at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, majoring in Zoology and Geography.

## **BILL STEWART**

*University of California Cooperative Extension*

Bill Stewart recently joined UC Cooperative Extension as a Forestry Specialist after a decade with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, where he was the Assistant Deputy Director for the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP). His current areas of interest for both research and Extension center around improving the positive financial linkages between working forests and rangelands on one hand and our urban residents on the other. In addition to the high-value timber and grass-fed beef, there is an ever-increasing social demand for services and risk avoidance, such as better water quality, better fish and wildlife habitats, reduced wildfire, and more open space -- but few straightforward price signals, markets, or long-term institutional arrangements to promote the sustainable production of these services.

While Stewart was with the State, he led the 2003 Forest and Range Assessment for California, working with the Board of Forestry on state forest management plans and the 2007 Forest Policy Statement, and working with the Resources Agency on putting a state-based focus on federal forest policies in California. Before his decade in Sacramento, Stewart worked on forest and resource economics for the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project and on the Sierra Business Council's *Sierra Nevada Wealth Index*. Mr. Stewart received his B.S. from Stanford University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley in environmental sciences and forest economics & policy.

## **Session 2a: Carbon and Beyond**

### **TONY BRUNNELLO**

*Deputy Secretary for Climate Change and Energy, California Resources Agency*

Anthony J. Brunello was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in August 2007 to serve as the Deputy Secretary for Climate Change and Energy at the California Resources Agency, the state agency responsible for managing California's natural, cultural and historical resources. In this capacity, he is responsible for coordinating all climate change and energy activities of a cabinet-level agency and its 24 departments, boards, commissions and conservancies and advising the agency Secretary on climate change and energy policy. Prior to joining Governor Schwarzenegger's Administration, he was Program Coordinator for International Programs within the U.S. Forest Service. Brunello has worked extensively on climate and energy-related issues developing greenhouse gas mitigation projects and analysis around the world for public- and private-sector clients, has worked as a Senior Research Fellow coordinating economic analysis for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, and as a resource economist for PA Consulting. He has also worked as the Executive Director for the Tahoe-Baikal Institute. A native of South Lake Tahoe, California, Brunello received a B.S. in economics and environmental studies from the

University of California, Santa Barbara, and a M.S. in Environmental and Resource Economics from the University College London in the United Kingdom.

## **DAVE BISCHEL**

*President of the California Forestry Association*

David Bischel is a licensed professional forester and is the president and chief executive officer of the California Forestry Association (CFA). CFA is the forest industry's Sacramento-based trade association representing a diversified membership of California's forest landowners, wood products manufacturers, biomass energy producers and forestry professionals. Prior to his current position, Bischel was the executive officer of the California State Board of Forestry's Professional Foresters Licensing Program. Bischel has more than 20 years of private forest-management experience, including 10 years as the forestry manager for Southern Pacific Land Company's 220,000-acre Mt. Shasta District.

Bischel graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in forestry and from UC Davis with a bachelor of science in renewable natural resources emphasizing wildlife and fisheries biology. He has served in a leadership capacity with many professional as well as community organizations, including as chairman of the national Forest Industry Associations Council, president of the California Licensed Foresters Association, and chairman of the Northern California Society of American Foresters. He currently serves as the chairman of the National Council of Forestry Association Executives and as a member of the California Fire Safe Council Board of Directors.

## **NICHOLAS MARTIN**

*Winrock International*

Nicholas Martin is a Program Officer in Forestry, Energy & Ecosystem Services for Winrock International. Martin manages terrestrial carbon sequestration and emission reduction activities under the West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership, including reforestation, forest management, fire management, and biomass energy. He is working with the U.S. Forest Service, state agencies, the forest and energy industries, landowners and non-governmental organizations on climate change mitigation/adaptation activities throughout California and the western United States. He leads forest carbon measurement, monitoring, and verification activities, and serves as a third-party verifier for the California Climate Action Registry and Chicago Climate Exchange. Martin coordinates biomass power and biofuels initiatives at Winrock, including feedstock supply assessments, biomass from hazardous forest fuels, co-firing biomass in coal-fired power plants, conventional and cellulosic biofuels, international bioenergy collaboration, and linkages to terrestrial and geologic sequestration. He received his M.S. in Energy and Resources from the University of California, Berkeley.

## **MARK NECHODOM (SEE 1b ABOVE)**

*USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station*

## **MICHELLE PASSERO**

*Director of Policy Initiative, Pacific Forest Trust*

Ms. Passero has been leading the Pacific Forest Trust's policy efforts for over seven years, including serving as a key advisor and advocate for the climate benefits of forests in California and across the country. Passero holds a Master of Law degree in Sustainable International Development from the University of Washington and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco. Passero previously worked as an environmental law attorney focusing on land use regulations and the management of natural resources.

## **BRETT STOREY**

*Biomass Project Manager, Placer County CEO Office*

Brett Storey is currently the Biomass Program Manager for Placer County CEO office. His responsibilities include directing the plans and program development for all wildfire prevention and biomass utilization activities for the County.

Storey spent 15 years in the aerospace industry before working as a world-wide procurement manager at Hewlett Packard for nine years. He graduated from California State University, Chico, in 1982 with a B.S. in Business Administration, and he also attended graduate school at USC in Systems Engineering. Storey has served on the Rocklin City Council for seven years. He was the City Mayor in 2004.

## **Session 2b: Community Adaptation**

### **STEVE FRISCH**

*Chief Executive Officer, Sierra Business Council*

Steve is the new CEO of the Sierra Business Council. In his former role as Vice President for Programs, Steve managed a variety of programs at SBC, including: Placer Legacy, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy effort, and the Working Landscapes Initiative – a program that has protected 30,000 acres of working farms and ranches in the region. He also managed sustainable business and building projects to encourage the adoption of socially responsible business and development practices.

Prior to joining the Sierra Business Council, Frisch owned and operated a small business in Truckee, California, and was president of the Truckee Downtown Merchants Association. He has served on the Nevada County Welfare Reform Commission, the Town of Truckee redevelopment agency formation committee and as an advisor to the California Resources Agency's California Legacy Project.

## AUTUMN BERNSTEIN

*Land Use Coordinator, Sierra Nevada Alliance*

Autumn Bernstein is the Land Use Coordinator for Sierra Nevada Alliance. She just completed a report about fire effects in the Sierra, and she directs the Alliance's Planning for the Future Campaign, a region-wide effort to advance sustainable land use planning in the Sierra. Prior to joining the Alliance, Bernstein held positions with Greenbelt Alliance and the Planning and Conservation League, where she conducted policy analysis, community organizing and political advocacy around land use issues. She has also worked as a wildlife biologist and political consultant specializing in environmental campaigns. She holds a B.S. in Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology from UC Davis. She is a fourth-generation Californian and lives in South Lake Tahoe.

## TONY LASHBROOK

*Town of Truckee*

Tony has spent his 26 year career working for local government in the Sierra after obtaining his degree in Natural Resource Planning from Humboldt State University. Mr. Lashbrook was responsible for the preparation of a specific plan for the community of Mariposa that received a State and National award from the American Planning Association in 1993. .

Now Truckee's Town Manager, Tony worked as the Community Development Director for the newly incorporated Town since 1994. Achievements include completion of a General Plan, Downtown Specific Plan, Redevelopment Plan, completely overhauled Development Code, award winning Truckee River Revitalization Strategy, Trails Plan and development of an aggressive housing program for this unique community. Tony has presented papers on specific plans, public involvement, tourism planning and Brownfield development to the American Planning Association, Local Government Commission, California Center for Land Recycling and Sierra Business Council. Tony is a member of the American Planning Association, California Planning Roundtable and past member of the California County Planning Directors Association.

## RICK PHELPS

*Executive Director, High Sierra Energy Foundation*

High Sierra Energy Foundation Executive Director Rick Phelps has spent most of his career promoting and implementing energy efficiency and water conservation projects throughout the United States. Phelps has a B. A. in Economics from the University of Texas and an M.B.A. from Harvard University.

## KATHY HUBBARD

*Deputy Director, California Ski Industry Association*

Kathy Hubbard is the Deputy Director of the California Ski Industry Association (CSIA) a leader in finding solutions to the problems of climate change. Located in San Francisco, the CSIA supports California and Nevada resorts by coordinating legislative activities, risk management and technical training on behalf of the industry. In 2001 the CSIA was one of the first industry groups to endorse AB 1058, the legislation targeting emission controls on new vehicles, specifically SUVs, sold in California. Most recently, the CSIA was among the first industry representatives to publicly support [California Assembly Bill 32](#), or the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Delighted with the success of AB 32, the CSIA continues to support and implement sound measures to defeat global warming.

## REINETTE SENUM

*PowerUp!*

Feeling overwhelmed two years ago by the thought of global warming, oil depletion and animal extinction, Reinette Senum decided she had to take some local action regarding her concerns over these large global issues. Senum held her first conference May of 2005 on Oil Depletion, recruiting international and local oil experts to speak on the matter. She has been working successfully for the last two years on local solutions to climate change effects in Nevada City, CA, including, for instance: helping to create a resolution (passed last October, 2006) by the City of Nevada City to reduce local effects of global climate change and rising fuel prices; conducting an energy audit and emissions inventory on the Nevada City municipality resulting in converting over 3,000 feet of downtown Nevada City's conventional Christmas lights to the highly energy-efficient LED Christmas lights; conducting an audit of conventional light bulbs among all Nevada City businesses and creating an exchange program; conducting six PG&E energy-efficient workshops; producing two Global Cooling Cafes (also known as Conversations Cafes); producing Power Palooza - Global Cooling Community Extravaganza.

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