



Craig Thompson

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Dr. Thompson's background includes a blend of landscape and wildlife ecology, specializing in the relationship between large-scale habitat change and the interactions between predators, competitors, and prey. He has worked with a wide variety of sensitive carnivore species, including black-footed ferrets, island fox, swift fox, bald eagles, and mountain lions in numerous western states. He has served as a technical advisor for wildlife-related issues to numerous organizations and efforts, including the Dinkey Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project in the Sierras, the Blackfoot-Swan Landscape Restoration Project in northern Montana, and the California Academy of Sciences. Currently, he lives in Missoula, MT and is applying this background to the development of resiliency-based forest management regimes in both the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountain regions.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Wildlife Ecology, Utah State University, 2006

M.S. Landscape Ecology, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2001 B.S. Ecology,
Behavior and Evolution, University of California San Diego, 1993

RECENT AWARDS

2015 – Pacific Southwest Research Station, Station Director's Award 2010, 2011, 2012,
2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 - USFS SPOT awards

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2017 – present. **Landscape Wildlife Ecologist, Conservation Biology Institute,**
Corvallis, OR.

2007 – 2017. **Research Wildlife Ecologist, USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station**, Fresno, CA.

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Principle Investigator for US Forest Service, Fisher Research Project in the Sierra Nevada, California – US Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station.

Designed and implemented a long-term research project dedicated to collecting information on the status, demographics, habitat requirements, and threats associated with an isolated fisher population in the southern Sierra Nevada region.

Principle Investigator for US Forest Service, Mountain Lion Research Project in the Sierra Nevada, California – US Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station. Designed and implemented a research project focusing on the response of mountain lions to large-scale disturbances, such as wildfire or forest management, and the implications for smaller carnivores. This work is currently helping to guide the reintroduction of fishers and bighorn sheep into Yosemite National Park as well as the design of forest restoration projects.

Research Collaborator, Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project – University of California Berkeley. Assisted with the integration of wildlife monitoring data into the Sierra Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP). SNAMP represented a comprehensive, multi-faceted research effort designed to identify the impacts of forest management on water, wildlife, forest health, fire behavior, and public perceptions in the Sierra Nevada region.

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS AND PERMITS

The Wildlife Society, Western Section

International Association of Landscape Ecologists

Southern Sierra Nevada Fisher Working Group

California Mountain Lion Scientific Working Group

Humboldt State University – adjunct faculty

Utah State University – adjunct faculty

US Forest Service, National Tree Climbing Technical Advisory Group

TECHNICAL REVIEW SERVICES

Journal of Mammalogy

Journal of Wildlife Management

Landscape Ecology

Ecosphere

Southwestern Naturalist

Ecography Natural Areas Journal

PUBLICATIONS

Logan, B., P. Singleton, C. Thompson, V. Saab, and W. Block. 2016. Wildfire! Toward understanding its effects on wildlife. *The Wildlife Professional* 10: 38-41.

Thompson, C.M. and K.L. Purcell. 2016. Conditions inside fisher dens during prescribed fires: what is the risk posed by spring underburns? *Forest Ecology and Management* 359: 156-161.

Sweitzer, R.A., B.J. Furnas, R.H. Barrett, K.L. Purcell, and C.M. Thompson. 2016. Landscape fuel reduction, forest fire, and biophysical linkages to local habitat use and local persistence of fishers (*Pekania pennanti*) in Sierra Nevada mixed-conifer forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* 361: 208-225.

Sweitzer, R.A., V.D. Popescu, R.H. Barrett, K.L. Purcell, and C.M. Thompson. 2015. Reproduction, abundance, and population growth for a fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) population in the Sierra National Forest, CA. *Journal of Mammalogy* 96: 772-790.

Gese, E.M. and C.M. Thompson. 2014. Does habitat heterogeneity in a multi-use landscape influence survival rates and density of a native mesocarnivore? *PlosOne* 9(6): e100500. Doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0100500.

Thompson, C., R. Sweitzer, M. Gabriel, K. Purcell, R. Barrett, and R. Poppenga. 2014. Impacts of rodenticide and insecticide toxicants from marijuana cultivation sites on fisher survival rates in the Sierra National Forest, California. *Conservation Letters* 7: 91-102.

- Thompson, C.M. and E.M. Gese. 2013. Influence of vegetation structure on the small mammal community in a shortgrass prairie ecosystem. *Acta Theriol* 58: 55-61.
- Zielinski, W.J., C.M. Thompson, K.L. Purcell, and J.D. Garner. 2013. An assessment of fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) tolerance to forest management intensity on the landscape. *Forest Ecology and Management* 310: 821-826.
- Gabriel, M.W. L.W. Woods, R. Poppenga, R.A. Sweitzer, C. Thompson, S.M. Matthews, J.M. Higley, S.M. Keller, K. Purcell, R.H. Barrett, G.M. Wengert, B.J. Sacks, and D.L. Clifford 2012. Anticoagulant rodenticides on our public and community lands: spatial distribution of exposure and poisoning of a rare forest carnivore. *PLoSOne* 7(7):e40163.doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0040163.
- Thompson, C.M., J.A. Royle, and J.D. Garner. 2012. A framework for inference about carnivore density from unstructured spatial sampling of scat using detector dogs. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 76: 863-871.
- Thompson, C.M. and E.M. Gese. 2012. Swift foxes and ideal free distribution: relative influence of vegetation and rodent prey base on swift fox survival, density, and home range size," *ISRN Zoology*, vol. 2012, Article ID 197356. doi:10.5402/2012/197356
- Thompson, C.M., W.J. Zielinski, and K. Purcell. 2011. Evaluating management risks using landscape trajectory: A case study of California fisher. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 75: 1164-1176.
- Thompson, C. M. and E. M. Gese. 2007. Food webs and intraguild predation: community interactions of a native mesocarnivore. *Ecology* 88: 334-346.
- Thompson, C.M., P.E. Nye, G.A. Schmidt, and D.K. Garcelon. 2005. Foraging of bald eagles in a freshwater tidal system. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 69: 609-617.
- Thompson, C.M. and K. McGarigal. 2002. The influence of research scale on bald eagle habitat selection along the lower Hudson River, New York (USA). *Landscape Ecology* 17: 569-586.

Beier, P., K. Penrod, C. Luke, W. Spencer, and C. Cabanero. 2006. South Coast Missing Linkages: restoring connectivity to wildlands in the largest metropolitan area in the United States. Pages 555-586 in: K. Crooks and M. Sanjayan, eds. Connectivity Conservation. Cambridge University Press.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Thompson, C.M. Forest carnivore habitat conservation and fuel management. Invited speaker at The Nature Conservancy's Fire Adapted Community Learning Network Conference. Ashland, OR. June, 2016.

Thompson, C.M. Status of fishers and fisher research in the Southern Sierra Nevada. Invited speaker at the Yosemite Forum. Yosemite National Park. May, 2016.

Thompson, C.M. Wildlife ecology and habitat management: Update on regional carnivore research efforts and application to the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act. Invited speaker at the CFLRA Monitoring Symposium, Fresno, CA. Feb 2016.

Thompson, C.M. Fisher use of Sierra Nevada Landscapes, 2015 research update and management implications. Invited presentation, California Forestry Association Annual Meeting, Napa, CA. Feb 2015.

Thompson, C.M. Safety and fiscal impacts to field research projects and wildlife professionals. Invited speaker at the Marijuana Cultivation and its Impacts on Wildlife, Habitats and the Wildlife Profession symposium. TWS Western Section annual meeting. Santa Rosa, CA. Jan 2015.

Spencer, W., H. Romsos, W. Zielinski, J. Baldwin, C. Thompson, and S. Britting. A management grid system for the Southern Sierra Nevada Fisher Conservation Strategy. TWS Western Section annual meeting, Santa Rosa, CA. Jan 2015.

Thompson, C.M. Impacts of illegal marijuana cultivation on wildlife in the Sierra Nevadas. Invited presentation, Trout Unlimited Regional Conference, Reno, NV. March 2014.

Zielinski, W.J., C.M. Thompson, K.L. Purcell, and J.D. Garner. An assessment of fisher tolerance to forest management intensity on the landscape. TWS Western Section annual meeting. Reno, NV. Jan 2014.

Thompson, C.M. and M. Jones-Yellin. Using research in collaborative evaluation and adaptation. Invited speaker at the National Forest Foundation seminar on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act. May 2013.

Thompson, C.M. Importance of forest structure in habitat functionality: what can be learned from 30 years of Sierra Nevada fisher research? Invited speaker at the TWS Rocky Mountain Section annual meeting. Coeur D'Alene, ID. March 2013.