

California-Nevada Amphibian Populations Task Force

January 8–9, 2026

Sierra Nevada Brewery
1075 East 20th Street
Chico, CA 95928

AGENDA

Chair: Dave Bradford, Las Vegas, NV

Vice Chair: Jef Jaeger, School of Life Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Local Organizers: Karla Marlow and Kevin Wiseman, Kleinfelder, San Francisco, CA

Parent Organization: Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy

Sponsor: Sierra Nevada Brewery

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

6:30-9:30 pm **No-host Meet-and-Greet at Mulberry Music Station Brewpub**, 175 E 20th St, STE 100, Chico, CA (pizza-style menu)

Thursday, January 8, 2026

7:45-8:30 am **Registration and Refreshments**

8:30-8:45 am **Introduction and Announcements:** Dave Bradford

Session 1

* Indicates presenter(s) in multi-authored presentations.

Moderator: Kevin Wiseman, Kleinfelder, San Francisco, CA

8:45-9:05 am **Using Intensive and Extensive Monitoring of Amphibians and Fishes to Guide Rapid Recovery Actions for the Cascades Frog in California.** Justin M. Garwood. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Inland Fisheries, Arcata, CA, justin.garwood@wildlife.ca.gov.

9:05-9:25 am **Reversing Widespread Legacy Impacts of Introduced Sportfish on Declining Amphibians in Glacial Lake Basins of the Klamath Mountains.** Amanda Nordstrom^{1*}, Braden Herman^{2*}, and Justin Garwood¹. ¹California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Inland Fisheries, Arcata, CA, amanda.nordstrom@wildlife.ca.gov; ²California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fortuna, CA.

- 9:25-9:45 am **Minimum Hydroperiod for Metamorphosis in the California Tiger Salamander, *Ambystoma californiense*.** Sean M. O'Brien* and Brent P. Helm. Westervelt Ecological Services, Sacramento, CA, seanobrien1342@gmail.com.
- 9:45-10:20 am **Break and Refreshments** (35 min).
- 10:20-10:40 am **An Update on Cascades Frogs (*Rana cascadae*) Monitoring and Recovery Actions in the Lassen Region of Northern California.** Bennie Loucks^{1*}, Matthew Reno², Tyler Woollard³, Sky Wetherby³, Jonah Piovia-Scott⁴, Ryan Wagner⁴, Karen Pope⁵, and Justin Garwood⁶. ¹Collins Pine Company, Chester, CA, bloucks@collinsco.com; ²Sierra Pacific Industries, Chico, CA; ³U.S. Forest Service, Lassen National Forest, Chester, CA; ⁴Washington State University, Vancouver, WA; ⁵U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Arcata, CA; ⁶California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Arcata, CA.
- 10:40-11:00 am **Occurrence of the California Red-legged Frog in Reservoirs Despite Habitat Alterations and Non-Native Predatory Fish.** Jeff A. Alvarez^{1*}, Mary A. Shea², Sarah M. Foster³, and Andrew Isner⁴. ¹The Wildlife Project, Sacramento, CA, jeff@thewildlifeproject.com; ²PO Box 1632, Brentwood, CA; ³Foster Wildlife Surveys, Sacramento, CA; ⁴5505 North El Adobe Drive, Fresno, CA.
- 11:00-11:20 am **The First Description of Mount Lyell Salamanders (*Hydromantes platycephalus*) Occupying Lakes in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains.** Parker R. Land^{1*}, Georgia Q. Lattig¹, Leonie M. Walderich¹, Jacob W. Staines², Forest D. Peri¹, and Roland A. Knapp^{1,2}. ¹Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, parkerland29@gmail.com; ²Resilience Institute Bridging Biological Training and Research, Quito, Ecuador.
- 11:20-11:40 am **Developing a Chiricahua Leopard Frog Genetic Management Plan.** Audrey K. Owens^{1*}, Robert D. Denton², Ian M. Latella¹, and Kathryn Davison¹. ¹Terrestrial Wildlife Branch, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ, aowens@azgfd.gov; ²Department of Biology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN.
- 11:40-1:40 pm **Lunch** (2 hours)

Session 2

- Moderator:** Karla Marlow, Kleinfelder, San Francisco, CA
- 1:40-2:00 pm **Updated Status of the Dixie Valley Toad (*Bufo (Anaxyrus) williamsi*).** Matthew J. Forrest^{1*} and Oliver J. Miano². ¹Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA, matthewforrest@gmail.com; ²Private Consultant at Tortoise and Hare Environmental Services, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2:00-2:20 pm **Reproductive Phenology and Oviposition Characteristics of *Rana draytonii* from a Restoration Site at the Southern Range Edge in Baja California, Mexico.** Bennett M. Hardy^{1*}, Anny Peralta-García², Jorge H. Valdéz-Villavicencio², Jessica Barba¹, and Bradford D. Hollingsworth¹. ¹Herpetology Department, San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, CA, bhardy@sdnhm.org; ²Fauna del Noroeste, Ensenada, BC, Mexico.

- 2:20-2:40 pm **Patterns of Dispersal and Short-term Survivorship in Post-Metamorphic California Red-legged Frogs (*Rana draytonii*).** Hale Garcia-Dean^{1*}, Jeff Wilcox², Derek Girman¹, and Dan Crocker¹. ¹Department of Biology, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA, halebargiadean@gmail.com; ²Mitsui Ranch Preserve, Sonoma County, CA.
- 2:40-3:00 pm **Developing Zoo Head-starting for Two Imperiled California Anurans.** Ben Witzke*, Matthew Weeks*, Tiffany May*, Jamie McNellis, Mikaela Wiley, Rosalie Tang, Jae Rendall, and Rochelle Stiles. San Francisco Zoo and Gardens, San Francisco, CA, rochelles@sfzoo.org.
- 3:00-3:30 pm **Break and Refreshments** (30 min).
- 3:30-3:50 pm **Lessons Learned from Year 2 of Bullfrog Eradication Efforts in Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, California.** Gabe Saron*, Nick Brinton, Brian Friermouth, Erik Smith, and Cole Ayton. WRA, Inc., San Rafael, CA, gabe.saron@wra-ca.com.
- 3:50-4:10 pm **Two Seasons of American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) Abatement on Fort Ord National Monument in Monterey County, California.** Aubrie Benterou*, Bruce Delgado, and Luis Leon. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Marina, CA, jlbenterou@blm.gov.
- 4:10-4:30 pm **Adaptive Recovery of the Southern Mountain Yellow-legged Frog (*Rana muscosa*).** Leah E. Jacobs*, T. H. Hammond, M. J. Curtis, S. Chancellor, T. Payne, M. Cunningham, and D. M. Shier. San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Recovery Program, Escondido, CA, ljacobs@sdzwa.org.
- 4:30-4:35 pm **Announcements:** Dave Bradford
- 4:35-6:45 PM **No-host beer bar congregation at Sierra Nevada Brewery.** The local committee members will also provide a list of several venues in town that may be of interest.

Friday, January 9, 2026

- 7:00-8:20 am **CDFW Amphibian Working Group Meeting – CDFW Staff Only.**
In the back of “The Big Room.”
- 7:45-8:30 am **Registration and Refreshments**
- 8:30-8:40 am **Announcements:** Dave Bradford

Session 3

- Moderator:** Jeff A. Alvarez, The Wildlife Project, Sacramento, CA
- 8:40-9:00 am **Monitoring Amphibians and Reptiles along California Department of Water Resources Infrastructure.** Veronica Wunderlich, California Department of Water Resources, West Sacramento, CA, veronica.wunderlich@water.ca.gov.

- 9:00-9:20 am **Behavioral Responses of Pacific Newts (*Taricha*) to Natural and Anthropogenic Disturbances.** Ryan K. Murphy*, Jennifer L. Hoy, and Chris R. Feldman. University of Nevada, Reno, NV, rkmurphy@unr.edu.
- 9:20-9:40 am **Ranid Frog Management and Long-term Monitoring Updates in the Northern Sierra Nevada: Updates from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife High Mountain Lakes Project, North-Central Region.** Isaac Chellman. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Rancho Cordova, CA, isaac.chellman@wildlife.ca.gov.
- 9:40-9:55 am **Reintroduction of Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frogs in Five Lakes Basin, Nevada County, CA.** Erica Leiserowitz. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Rancho Cordova, CA, ebevowitz@gmail.com. (15 minutes)
- 9:55-10:25 am **Break and Refreshments** (30 min)
- 10:25-10:45 am **Tarahumara Frog (*Rana tarahumarae*) Conservation in Arizona.** Ian M. Latella*, Audrey Owens, and Kathryn Davison. Terrestrial Wildlife Branch, Arizona Department of Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ, ilatella@azgfd.gov.
- 10:45-11:05 am **Comparing AHDriFT with HALT Camera Traps for Automated Monitoring and Individual Identification of Ground-dwelling Amphibians.** Michael T. Hobbs. Hobbs Ecology, San Jose, CA, mhobbs2928@gmail.com.
- 11:05-11:25 am **An Integrated Strategy for American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) Control – and Native Anuran Re-introduction – at Rattlesnake Lake, Smith River Basin, California, USA.** Jonathan Hollis*, James Ray, Jaymes Silveira, and Michael Van Hattem. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Eureka, CA, jonathan.hollis@wildlife.ca.gov.
- 11:25-11:45 am **Applying Novel Real-Time Bioacoustics Technology to American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) Management and Re-introduction of California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*) on the Santa Rosa Plateau.** Ashwin N. Datta^{1*}, and Tyler J. Schwenk^{2*}.
¹Instinct, Hillsboro, OR, ashwin.datta@instinctenvironmental.com; ²Trade Routes, San Diego, CA.
- 11:45-1:35 pm **Lunch** (1 hour, 50 minutes)

Session 4

- Moderator:** Marina Gerson, Biological Sciences, CSU Stanislaus, Turlock, CA
- 1:35-1:55 pm **CDFW's Foothill Yellow-legged Frog (*Rana boylei*) Population and Habitat Monitoring in Response to Wildfire in North Central Region.** Sophia L. Weinmann. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Central Region, Rancho Cordova, CA, sophia.weinmann@wildlife.ca.gov.

- 1:55-2:15 pm **A Year of Research on the Post-metamorphic Life Stage of the Northern Population of Western Spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*).** Jakob Woodall* and Vance Vredenburg. Amphibian Conservation Lab, Department of Biology, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, jwoodall@sfsu.edu.
- 2:15-2:35 pm **Pond Array Study of Overwintering in the Rough-skinned Newt, *Taricha granulosa*.** Michael F. Westphal. Central Coast Field Office, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Marina, CA, mwestpha@blm.gov.
- 2:35-3:00 pm **Break and Refreshments** (25 min)
- 3:00-3:20 pm **Management Response to Drought for Chiricahua Leopard Frogs in Arizona.** Kathryn Davison*, Audrey K. Owens, and Ian M. Latella. Terrestrial Wildlife Branch, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ, kdavison@azgfd.gov.
- 3:20-3:40 pm **Early Days in Recognizing the Worldwide Population Declines of Amphibians.** David F. Bradford. CA/NV Amphibian Populations Task Force, Las Vegas, NV, dbradfo@herpconbio.org.
- 3:40-4:00 pm **Managing Invasive Aquatic Predators of the Arroyo Toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*) in Modified Stream Habitats: Preliminary Evidence of Utility at Middle Piru Creek in Southern California.** Andrew Dennhardt^{1*}, David Blake^{2,3}, Darby Gaffney^{2,3}, Emilee Hosking^{2,3}, Gavin Hughes^{2,3}, Harlan Le^{2,3}, Michael Palermo^{2,3}, Natalie Quah^{2,3}, Alin Rangel^{2,3}, Jaelene Clarisse Salas^{2,3}, Grecia Velasquez^{2,3}, David Daversa^{2,3}, and H. Bradley Shaffer^{2,3}. ¹U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura, CA, andrew_dennhardt@fws.gov; ²La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, University of California, Los Angeles, CA; ³Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Los Angeles, CA.
- 4:00-4:05 pm **Announcements and Closing Remarks:** Dave Bradford.

Saturday Field Trip, January 10, 2026 (optional)

- 9:00 am~1:00 pm Field trip will be to Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve in the Sierra Nevada foothills about 23 minutes from the hotel in Chico (<https://www.csuchico.edu/bccer/>). The Reserve was heavily damaged by the Park Fire in 2024 and is currently closed to the public. We expect to be able to do some hiking and search for amphibians, although there is no guarantee we will find any. Further information will be provided at the meeting.

POSTERS (alphabetical by author)

- Thursday-Friday **Environmental DNA (eDNA): Applications, Methods, and Insights from Amphibian Monitoring.** Megan Fee and Rick Evans. Stantec, Nevada City, CA, megan.fee@stantec.com.
- Thursday-Friday **HERpetologist et. al. Retreat – Conservation Needs Us All.** Tiffany May^{1*}, Ninette Daniels², Vanessa Lozano³, Destiny Saucedo⁴, Victoria Brunal-Byrd^{5,6}, Sophia Weinmann⁷, Hanna Nottnagel⁸, and Rochelle Stiles¹. ¹San Francisco Zoo, San Francisco,

CA, aurora6853@gmail.com; ²National Parks Service, Yosemite National Park, CA; ³Endemic Environmental Services, Sacramento, CA; ⁴Catalina Island Conservancy, Avalon, CA; ⁵Safari West, Santa Rosa, CA; ⁶Mitsui Ranch Preserve, Petaluma, CA; ⁷California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CA; ⁸Dokken Engineering, Folsom, CA.

Thursday-Friday **Sublethal Effects of Chronic Pyrethroid Insecticide Exposure on the Morphology of Pacific Tree Frog Tadpoles.** Joshua Roy and Marina M. Gerson*. Biological Sciences, CSU Stanislaus, Turlock, CA, mgerson@csustan.edu.