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The impact of wildfires on the California landscape

Over a hundred years of fire suppression policy in the United States has led to increasingly severe wildfires. A warming climate may exacerbate this problem. In 2004 alone, more than 8 million acres burned in 40 states. As a result, there is a growing interest in understanding how wildfires affect watershed processes. I will present research on the post-fire evolution of soil properties, water quality, and biogeochemical cycles after recent California wildfires.

Biography: **Dr. Laura Rademacher** earned a BS degree in Geology & Geophysics (with Environmental Studies) at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. She went on to graduate school at U.C. Santa Barbara where she studied groundwater flowpaths, chemical weathering rates, and climate change patterns as determined using multiple environmental tracers, and received her Ph.D. in 2002. Dr. Rademacher then spent one year as a post doc at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign working on the uranium geochemistry of environmental systems. Afterwards she moved to Los Angeles, where she taught for two years at Cal State University Los Angeles. In 2005 she moved to Stockton and began teaching at the University of the Pacific where her interests include biogeochemical cycles, the hydrology of the critical zone, and the impact of human activities on coastal processes.