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ASSOCIATION

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virtual

2021 Natural Areas Conference

Life from the Ashes: Exploring the Impact of Prescribed & Natural Fire on Insects and Other Invertebrates

The Impact of Western Fires on Bumble Bees

Presented by John Mola, Ph.D.

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[Read Bio](#)

Presentation Description:

Fire is a dominant, well-studied, structuring force in many temperate and semi-arid communities. Fire can rapidly restructure the abundance and diversity of plant communities, as well as the obligate visitors of those plants, like bumble bees. In this talk I will present past research on how two California wildfires in grassland-chaparral habitats impacted forb communities and subsequently the resident bumble bee populations. Of particular interest will be our ability to look at changes in bumble bee population size beyond simple counts of foragers due to the availability of genetic material from before and after fire as well as burned and unburned sites. To provide a broader context for our discussion, I will bring in recent findings from other studies on the impacts of fire on bees and other pollinators as well as a brief discussion of ongoing issues in bumble bee conservation.