

SESSION H: EFFECTS OF STREAM DIVERSIONS ON CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN SYSTEMS

Man has historically diverted California streams to provide better access to water resources, for agriculture and to assist in mining. In more recent times, water in montane areas has been diverted for hydroelectric power production. As a result of population expansion and the subsequent increase in demand for a limited resource, competition for access to water has intensified. Resource and regulatory agencies have the responsibility to provide adequate water resources for the maintenance of fisheries, recreation, hydroelectric power production, riparian vegetation, and consumptive uses. As the demand for water increases, better information on the water requirements of these resources is needed to allow resource managers to allocate water equitably. Although verifiable quantitative data for all of these resources is limited, very little research has been conducted on the water relations of riparian vegetation, especially for montane streams.

The papers in this session provide the latest quantitative information on both eastern and western Sierra Nevada and coastal streams, ways to interpret riparian response to changing hydrological conditions, and evaluation of riparian communities with respect to hydrology and geomorphology.

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