Wildfire and Water Resources - Impacts and Resilient Management Strategies

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Wildfires are a natural yet changing component of many landscapes around the world. My work within the Russian River Watershed of California is investigating observational stream metrics as critical signals of entire landscape-scale resilience to wildfire. This work will inform how resilience is identified, and mechanisms that potentially impart resilience within a landscape.

Michelle is a Research Scientist in the Climate & Ecosystem Sciences Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory as is the Deputy Director of Integration for the Watershed Function Science Focus Area which is a large DOE project at the scientific frontier of understanding how watersheds function to deliver water and nutrients downstream. Dr. Newcomer's research is leading the way in emerging interdisciplinary topics such as how climate impacts surface-water groundwater interactions, biogeochemical cycling, and algal blooms. In her most recent work, Michelle is leading a large-scale rapid-response watershed approach to understanding watershed changes after fires in a west coast US watershed impacted by multiple and compounding fires each year.