"Bridging the Gap, Downscaling Climate Models to Inform Management Actions" Landscape Conservation Cooperative Conference- Nov 3, 2010

Slide: David Ackerly, UC Berkeley, talks about climate change...

"We're here bringing together researchers and a lot of the state and federal agencies to talk about climate change and how it impacts biodiversity in California and what are our options to how we can adapt and mitigate these impacts".

Slide: Why discussions about climate change are important....

"Many of us came to California and love it for its natural beauty we love it for the forest for the parks and the Sierra Nevada. The recreational value alone of our natural landscapes is a really important part of our state and climate change threatens a lot of that natural diversity"

Slide: Why bring researchers and land managers together?

"My real interest is how plants are found in different parts of the landscape. So we'll have our beautiful oak woodlands and a cool north slope and grassland out on a south facing slope. This is something we see as we drive down the highway but as climate change occurs we expect that a lot of those distributions might change even at that very small scale. We're trying to bring this big picture we have of global climate change down to that very local scale of what will happen in our backyards, what will happen in our local parks and the landscapes that we're in every day".

Slide: What should we know about climate change?

"A lot of the message we get about climate change can be very depressing basically. These changes are occurring rapidly, they're occurring globally. I think what we're really trying to focus on is at a very local scale there really may be things that we can grab on to that give us more hope. In the sense that our landscapes are very heterogeneous, they're highly variable, different kinds of plants and animals. And they will be even in the future even if things move around. So, the future might not look like it does today, but we still need to make choices about what it might look like and what kind of future we want to live in.

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