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## MAJOR CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE COMES TO UC DAVIS

The Natural Areas Conference brings together leaders in conservation and resource management for four-day event in October 2016

**Davis, CA**—Registration for the 43<sup>rd</sup> [Natural Areas Conference](#) has officially opened. The conference will take place October 18-21, 2016, on the UC Davis campus in Davis, California.

The event will focus on the ways natural areas and resource management professionals can respond to climate change, in accordance with this year's conference theme: *Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Areas Management: Turning Words to Action*.

The three-day conference will feature a two half-day plenary sessions, along with organized sessions, symposia, poster presentations, workshops and instructional field trips to nearby natural areas and working landscapes. It is co-hosted by the **Natural Areas Association, the U.S. Forest Service, and UC Davis**, and organized with the support of [many other organizations](#).

The plenary session on Tuesday, October 18 will include a keynote address by **U.S. Forest Service chief Tom Tidwell**, and presentations by **Chris Swanston**, research ecologist for the U.S. Forest Service, and **Healy Hamilton**, chief scientist for NatureServe.

On Wednesday, October 19 the plenary will include presentations and an interactive discussion on the topic *Reconciling Restoration with Environmental Change*. Top applied ecologists and restorationists from the **University of California - Davis, The Wilderness Society, University of Colorado, The Nature Conservancy, The University of Western Australia**, and the **University of Arizona** will participate.

The conference brings together those working in natural areas conservation and natural resource management, as well as academics and students, to explore on-the-ground strategies and tactics for responding to what 2016 conference chair Hugh Safford calls “one of the most critical conservation issues of our time”:

*There’s no doubt that climate change is going to have a profound impact on natural areas and their managers for decades to come. The Natural Areas Conference brings that community together to exchange information and experiences, share best management practices, and initiate and strengthen collaborations, so we can learn what is working and what we can do to prepare and take action.*

Safford, a USDA Forest Service ecologist and adjunct faculty member at UC Davis, added that the university was an ideal location for this year’s Natural Areas Conference, given UC Davis’ “leadership in applied research, and its world-class reputation in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, ecology and the environmental sciences.”

Other themes the conference will explore include connecting ecological restoration and adaptation, responding to sea level rise, rare species management, prescribed fire and wildland fire use, native plant materials, meadow and stream restoration, pollinators, the role of genetics and genomics in climate change adaptation, drought and forest sustainability, and climate adaptation tools.

The Natural Areas Association presents its **George B. Fell** and **Carl N. Becker Awards** during the **Awards Banquet** Thursday, October 20, to individuals and organizations that have made exceptional contributions to natural areas stewardship.

For more information about the 2016 Natural Areas Conference, go to <http://naturalareasconference.org/> Access a video about the conference at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBZ0tU4D9pE> or the Natural Areas Association channel on YouTube.

**About the Natural Areas Association:** We are the only national, non-profit membership organization that is dedicated to the support and advancement of the community of natural areas professionals. Our members work to protect and restore natural areas, ecosystems and landscapes, and include natural lands managers, natural resource managers, land trust staff and volunteers, biologists, ecologists, researchers, policy specialists, educators, students, and anyone with an active interest in environmental conservation and natural areas stewardship. For more information, go to <https://www.naturalareas.org/>

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