



# Status of pika at historic northern Sierra sites

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# Issues

- Few dozen documented localities, many old
- No trend studies
- Status unclear

## Questions

- What historic pika localities exist in our area?
- Are pikas still present at these sites?
- Is there any pattern of persistence vs. elevation (temperature)?
- *Although these questions address issues both of distribution (where) and trend (change), this is not a comprehensive distribution or population survey*

# Methods

- Compile historic records
  - Museum specimens ... online databases
  - Historic field notes
  - Other
- Revisit historic sites (> 25 years old), determine pika +/-
  - Survey protocol adapted from E. Beever, C. Ray
  - 'find 'em, you're done;' extensive searches if not found

Grinnell-1913

Cisco, Placer Co.

843

Oct. 3

obtained. There is considerable talus about the summit— of block of stone, affording in the recesses ideal retreats for conies and wood rats; but I failed to find signs of either. I did see, however, considerable excrement of Woodchuck, this being possibly the westernmost edge of the range of the species. I saw one Citellus b. beecheyi in a rock slide near the summit; also several Eutamias amoenus.

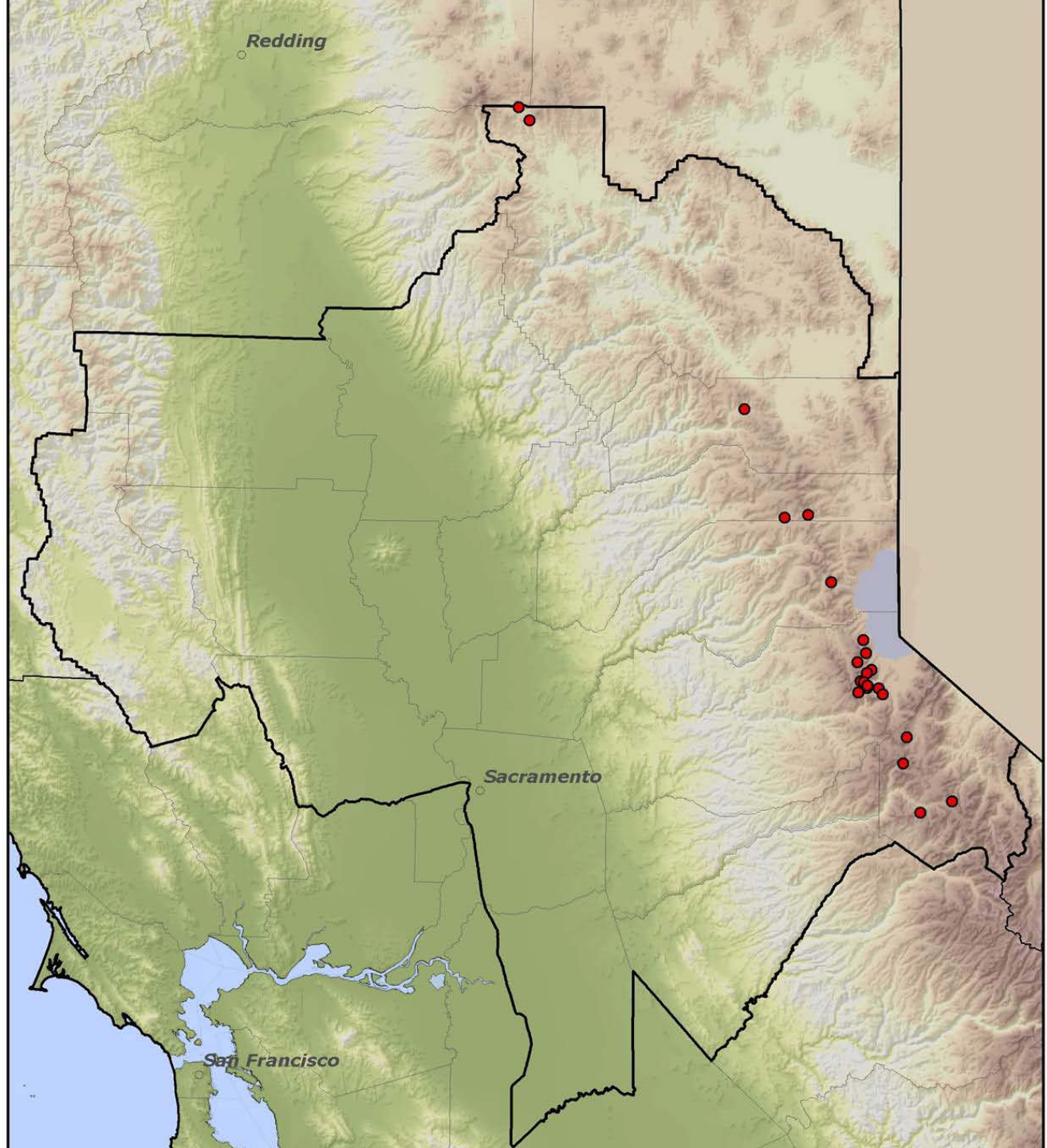
Saw two marmots in the rocky canyon— One was grooming his back and the other was feeding in the grass near the stream. The bed of the canyon, above a

detailed locations



# R

- We have  
from Al
- A few
- A few  
Donne
- Most f
- 19 from
- So far



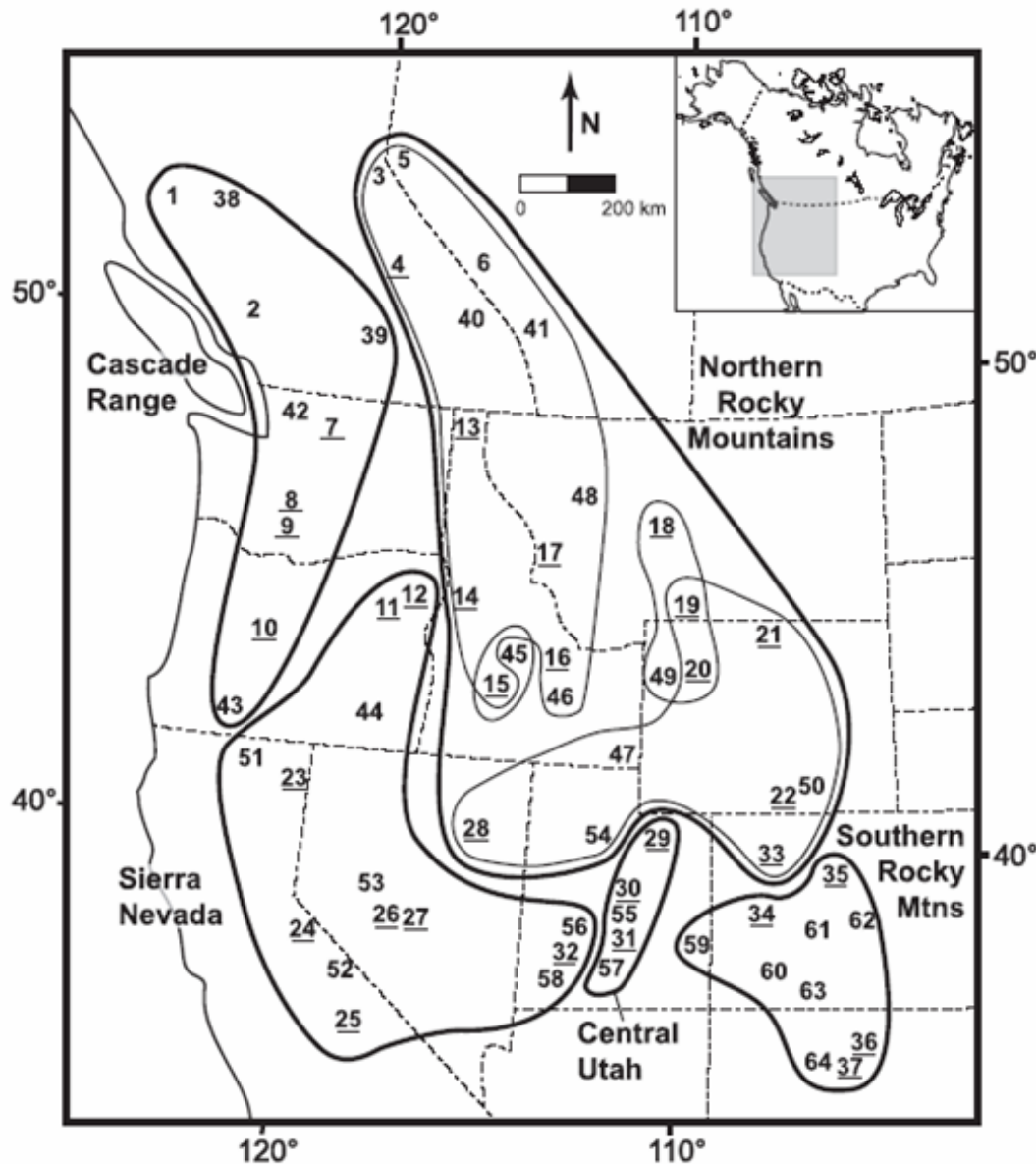
Site (Co.)	Elev.	Pika Sign
1. Flatiron (PLU) (J.Perrine pers comm)	5400'	All types
2. Deadman (SIE)	6100'	fresh scat; ?call (1)
3. Donner Pass E side (PLA)	6800'	calls, fresh scat
4. Eagle Falls (ELD)	7000'	none
5. Lucille Lake (ELD)	8200'	2002 specimen, UCD MWFB
6. Echo Pk/Angora Saddle (ELD)	8700'	calls, fresh scat
7. Crater Lake (ALP)	8700'	All types



photo by mahalie stackpole



# Subspecies questionable?



Mitochondrial DNA  
lineages:

Galbreath et al. 2009  
J. Biogeography