

## California Pika Summit – Revised Prospectus

The American pika (*Ochotona princeps*) is the subject of much recent interest related to its conservation status and its potential vulnerability to climate change. The California Fish and Game Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have both been petitioned to list the pika as threatened or endangered throughout its range in California and western U.S., respectively. Uncertainty regarding the current status of the species has prompted renewed efforts to monitor the occurrence of pikas in its historic range, to survey and describe new populations, to study the relationship between temperature and pika activity, and to develop conservation strategies for pikas, among other topics.

The Department of Fish and Game is the trustee agency for conserving and managing California's wildlife. The USDA-Forest Service is responsible for managing wildlife on National Forest System lands. Together, CDFG and the Forest Service are organizing a "Pika Summit" meeting to share current scientific information on pikas in California and to develop a coordinated approach to future work on the species. We invite you to participate in the Summit and to provide your input on the goals, objectives, format, and dates for the meeting, as outlined below.

### Goals

- Share information among research scientists and agency biologists working on pika
- Foster collaborations to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and policy impact of future research, monitoring, and conservation work on pikas
- Emphasize California pika conservation, but draw on and provide information to other areas in the pika's geographic range as appropriate

### Objectives

- Provide updates on recent projects and plans for future work
- Outline and prioritize information and research needs; identify potential funding sources
- Review and update a map of pika sites in California; develop an approach for tracking occurrence information
- Discuss the role of citizen-based monitoring; establish standardized data collection
- Present and review first-generation ecological niche models for pika
- Discuss pika health and handling protocols (anesthesia vs. no anesthesia; biological sample collection for cooperative studies, health threats)
- CDFG and USFWS staff discuss listing petitions and status review(s)
- Identify possible conservation strategies
- Coordinate future studies

### Format

- First half = short presentations, Second half = facilitated discussions
- Approximately 7 or 8 hours from introduction to conclusion

### Dates and Location

- USDA-Forest Service Sierra Nevada Research Center, 1731 Research Park Drive, Davis CA
- November 10, 2009

**CALIFORNIA PIKA SUMMIT**  
**November 10, 2009**  
**Meeting Information and Schedule**

**Goals** The Steering Committee identified the following goals for the Summit:

- Share information among research scientists and agency biologists working on American pika in California and nearby regions
- Foster collaboration to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and policy impact of future research, monitoring, and conservation work on pikas
- Emphasize pika conservation in California, but draw on and provide information to other areas in the American pika's geographic range as appropriate

**Location** USFS, Sierra Nevada Research Center, Second Floor Conference Room  
Devi Building - 1731 Research Park Drive  
Davis, CA 95618  
530-759-1700 (Devi Building Reception)

**Time** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Teleconferencing** We will connect to a conference call line at the meeting start time.

- Remote participants should use the following toll-free conference line: 877-898-4729
- We have requested presenters to provide their PowerPoint files before the meeting so they can be shared with remote participants. Connie Millar will forward all presentation files to remote participants, minimizing the file sizes as possible. If you have email file-size constraints, please send a note to Connie by November 6.

**Pre-Summit Work** To use our limited meeting time efficiently, we ask that you do some work before the Summit:

- Consider what is needed in California for American pika 1) research, 2) monitoring, and 3) conservation. We will brainstorm and prioritize lists of needs in these categories during the meeting.
- If you have conducted or plan to conduct pika field work, please be prepared to annotate a map at the meeting with your study site locations. These locations need not be precise at this time, but will be useful in discussions about study priorities and monitoring coverage.

**Lunch** Bring your own lunch. Or, place a sandwich order with the group in the morning! Please bring cash if you plan to order lunch.

**Transportation** Driving access is via Richards Blvd off I-80 (see attached map). Parking is free. Amtrak has a station at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Davis, a 15-minute walk over the interstate from the meeting location.

**Lodging** Many hotels are available near the meeting, including a few on Research Park Drive and Richards Blvd (see attached hotel list). Hotel Davis is another nearby option not on the attached list.

**Committee** For more information, please contact one of the Steering Committee members:  
Scott Osborn ([sosborn@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:sosborn@dfg.ca.gov)), Connie Millar ([cmillar@fs.fed.us](mailto:cmillar@fs.fed.us)),  
Toni Lyn Morelli ([tmorelli@fs.fed.us](mailto:tmorelli@fs.fed.us)), Deana Clifford ([dclifford@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:dclifford@dfg.ca.gov)),  
Dale Steele ([dsteELE@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:dsteELE@dfg.ca.gov))

**California Pika Summit - Schedule**

<b>Start</b>	<b>Topic/Title</b>	<b>Speaker/Leader</b>
8:15	Welcome and Logistics	Connie Millar
8:30	Brief Introductions	Connie Millar
8:45	Review Goals, Objectives, Schedule	Scott Osborn
8:55	Introduce Lists: Research, Monitoring, & Conservation Actions	Scott Osborn
	<b>Short Presentations (5-slide maximum)</b>	Toni Lyn Morelli (moderator)
9:00	Documenting and resurveying the historic pika locations in Grinnell's Lassen Transect	John Perrine
9:10	Revisiting historic pika locales in the northern Sierra	David Wright
9:20	The pellet's tale: Dating Bodie Hills pika extinctions using fecal pellets	Lyle Nichols
9:30	Pikas in a warm environment: Lessons from investigations at Bodie	Andrew Smith (Connie Millar)
9:40	A low-elevation haven: Exploring the distribution of pikas within Lava Beds National Monument	Chris Ray
9:50	Rangewide and regional density and occupancy patterns of pika and other alpine mammals in the Sierra Nevada and White Mountain ranges	Robert Klinger
10:00	Pika and the Grinnell Resurvey Project	Jim Patton
10:10	Can pikas adapt to climate change?: A 30-year perspective	Ed West
10:20	<b>Break</b>	
	<b>Short Presentations (5-slide maximum)</b>	Deana Clifford (moderator)
10:40	Distribution, geomorphic, and climatic relationships of pika in the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin	Connie Millar
10:50	Dispersal in fragmented habitats: using genetic markers to understand long term movement patterns	Mary Peacock
11:00	Pika handling	Toni Lyn Morelli and Deana Clifford
11:10	Persistence of American pikas through changing climates	Scott Loarie
11:20	Towards a California-based ecological niche model for the pika	Chris Stermer
11:30	Update on federal listing petition	Trisha Roninger
11:40	Update on California listing petition	Scott Osborn and Dale Steele
11:50	Protecting the American pika under the Endangered Species Act	Shaye Wolf
12:00	<b>Lunch (on-site)</b>	
	<b>Discussion and Prioritization Topics</b>	
13:00	Introduction to Prioritization Activity	Scott Osborn
	1. Surveys and Monitoring	
	2. Research	
	3. Conservation Planning	
15:00	<b>Voting and Break</b>	
15:25	Summary of Prioritization Activity	Scott Osborn
15:35	Closing: What's Next?	Connie Millar
16:30	Meeting Evaluation	Committee
16:45	Adjourn	