

Faculty Colloquium

April 3 (Thursday) at 4pm in WS 245

Dr. Deborah Kennard

Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Technology

Fire, Alien Invaders, and Ancient Trees

How student research is informing management of the Colorado National Monument

Over the past 7 years, Environmental Science students and I have been studying the beautiful pinyon-juniper woodlands in the Colorado National Monument. The questions we set out to answer were: How old are these woodlands? How long has it been since they burned in the last large wildfire? How much did the bark beetle outbreak change the woodland? What we learned not only surprised park managers, but contradicted a long-held belief on the best way to manage pinyon-juniper. These findings are leading to new studies looking at how cheatgrass, a non-native invasive grass, may put these woodlands in danger of future fires. Come learn about dendrochronology, GIS, remote sensing, general land surveys from the 1880s, and more!

