

# "After the Grizzly: Endangered Species and the Politics of Place in California"

A Geography Colloquium Presentation by

**Peter Alagona**

Thursday, April 21, 1930 Buchanan

## **Abstract:**

Conflicts about wildlife conservation have been common in the United States for more than a century. Yet, wildlife debates are often about much more than the species themselves. Throughout this time, wild animals have served as both surrogates and scapegoats--proxies for larger struggles over race, class, gender, property, development, and access to and control over lands and natural resources. Why do people use wildlife to fight about these broader social and environmental issues? My talk will explore this question through the history of endangered species loss and conservation and California, from the grizzly bear in the 19th century to the delta smelt in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **Bio:**

Peter Alagona earned master's degrees in geography (UCSB) and history (UCLA) before receiving his PhD in history from UCLA in 2006. From 2006 to 2008, he was a Beagle Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for the Environment and John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. From 2008 to 2009, he was a Lane Postdoctoral Fellow in the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University. He has been an assistant professor in history and environmental studies at UCSB since 2009.