

## ESPM 134 Term Paper Assignment

**Remember you only need to do this if you do not write two fieldtrip reports.**

**Topics:** Your paper should focus on the impact or interactions of insects, fire, or diseases on natural ecosystems. The exact topic selected should be one that is not covered in the lectures or field trips, or if it is covered, then your paper should go in much greater depth on the topic. Other ecosystems or many of the minor insects or pathogens that we mention only briefly are valid topics.

**Format:** All papers must be typed. No predetermined length is set, but a range of 3 to 6 single-spaced or 8-16 double-spaced pages is the norm. These will not be graded by the pound! **Short concise papers are better than long rambling dialogues.** Take the time to outline the ideas you want to communicate prior to writing the paper so that the points you want to make are presented in a logical order. Figures, if included, should be neat and legible. Proper grammar and spelling are expected; departures from this expectation will suffer in grade. **References should be used and cited in the text either by number or by author-date.** As with the pages, we have not set the number of references, but we expect your paper to be based on several references that you have found in the primary literature (i.e., scientific journals and reports). **Scientific names should be either underlined or italicized.**

**Important dates:** if you missed the Pt Reyes trip you should get your topic approved by next week, and the paper should be in before you leave for spring break. If you know you will be missing the Blodgett trip (which is now scheduled for May 3-4). You should select your topic by the 10th of April, and turn in the paper before the weekend of the Blodgett trip.