

Roland Knapp, Research Biologist, University of California Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory

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Biographical Statement: Roland Knapp received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1992, and since then has served as a research biologist at the University of California Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory, located near Mammoth Lakes. In 1995, he began a long-term study of factors responsible for the decline of amphibians in the Sierra Nevada. This research has involved amphibians surveys at more than 13,000 water bodies, a replicated whole-lake experiment designed to describe the recovery dynamics of amphibians following the removal of nonnative trout populations, and a 10-year collaborative study with colleagues at U.C. Santa Barbara, San Francisco State University, and the University of Idaho on the effects of the amphibian chytrid fungus on amphibian populations. Of all of the mountains that he has had the good fortune to experience, the Sierra Nevada remains the center of his universe.