

# FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring 2025

## Lobes of Love!

It had to have been one of the coolest event giveaways I've seen. As the California Tree School: Oakhurst session was winding down, our team noticed a smattering of participants toting individual conifer and oak seedlings to their last class. "Oh my gosh," I said to one participant. "Where did you get that?"

Turns out that attending the class "Planting Conifers and Hardwoods After a Wildfire" gave participants more than knowledge. The class instructor, Ron Allen, owns a native plant nursery in Mariposa County and gifted the seedlings to his students. It's exciting to think about where they will take root- some event participants travelled all the way from Shasta or Los Angeles County.

I've been thinking about that pairing of information and action, and how vital it is when we look at the needs of landowners managing post-fire forestland. In this newsletter, we're going to explore the Post-Fire Forest Resilience side of UC ANR's Forest Stewardship Program: the education, the action, and new developments for the future.

As we enter wildfire season, I hope that sharing these post-fire resources and success stories is a gentle reminder that our team is here to support the statewide capacity for resilience.

Warmly,  
Grace Dean  
Forest Stewardship Communications Specialist  
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*I was lucky to secure a valley oak seedling. Here it is going for a road trip down the 5 freeway!*

## **Forest Stewardship: Post-Fire**

*When landowners seek guidance for healing their forestland, the Post-Fire program can provide technical assistance and a built-in community.*

Plumas County landowners and community members are in their final week of the [Post-Fire Forest Resilience Workshop](#). This is the tenth workshop that the UC ANR team has hosted, with previous cohorts ranging from Siskiyou to Santa Cruz County.

["This workshop is designed to provide stepping stones and educational tools for landowners,"](#) shared workshop coordinator Katie Reidy. "It helps them think about how to manage their land for the future; how to encourage the land to grow back." The program has been in action since 2022, and has reached over 250 Californians. Since its inception, Reidy and the Post-Fire team have designed two versions of the workshop: a seven-week series for addressing needs one year after a wildfire, and a five-week series for forests 3+ years post-fire.

Participants are led through a best practices curriculum [customized for their region](#), with past sessions introducing topics such as pre-fire treatment effects on fire behavior in mixed-conifer ecosystems (El Dorado County Cohort, 2021) and management of unmerchantable burned timber (Santa Cruz County Cohort, 2024).

The workshop takes an online/in-person hybrid format. Weekly sessions are hosted over Zoom, where participants learn and discuss 'topics of the week' with one another and forestry professionals. Field trips provide visual guidance for land stewards, and an opportunity to network in-person.

### ***From 2024 workshop participants...***

"Thank you for the excellent opportunity to learn! I really appreciated seeing post-treatment areas at different points in time, I have a better sense of what I should do on my land."

"The information presented in the workshop is helping me to serve my clients and community members better by being able to guide them and provide services to them based on a wider scope of knowledgeable information."



## **Beyond the Workshop**

*In addition to hosting workshops, the Post-Fire program also develops fact sheets, reforestation monitoring tools, and has reported on innovative outreach and implementation methods.*

## Post-Fire Fact Sheets

Two-page fact sheets on erosion control, managing competing vegetation, and more are available at any time for you and your community.

- [Managing Competing Vegetation After High Severity Wildfire](#)
- [Managing Competing Vegetation with Herbicide](#)
- [Post-Fire Erosion Control: Mitigating Hillslope Erosion](#)
- [Recommendations for Managing Oak and Hardwood Resprouts](#)
- [Post-fire Considerations: Using prescribed fire to build forest resilience](#)

Find other helpful publications on the [Materials/Resources for Post-Fire webpage](#), and on the [UC ANR Fire Network website](#).

## Monitoring Restoration Practice Effectiveness

The Post-Fire team has developed a protocol for evaluating reforestation success by measuring tree seedling survival, understory shrub development, and surface fuel loads post-site preparation. By documenting lessons learned from these post-fire treatments, forest landowners are better equipped to make decisions regarding which treatments are the right fit for their forestland recovery goals. Learn more on the [Reforestation Effectiveness Monitoring webpage](#).

## EFRTs: Emergency Forest Restoration Teams

At the recommendation of the California Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, a program was piloted in 2021 to provide immediate post-fire restoration assistance to forest landowners in the Caldor, Dixie, and Tamarack fire footprints via local organizations (including Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)). UC ANR Staff Research Associate Daylin Wade, Forest Advisor Susie Kocher, and late Forest Advisor Ryan Tompkins studied the efficacy of the EFRT model, and published a "Lessons Learned" report on findings in 2024.

"By the end of 2023, the three pilot programs collectively removed dead trees on over 2,500 acres and planted conifer seedlings on approximately 1,400 acres of moderate to severely burned private forest land." (Wade et al., 2024).

- [Report Summary](#)



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**"Having the RCD come along made the process simple and understandable.**

**When you're a landowner post-fire, you need someone like that to advocate for you and explain this whole new world of managing forestland."**

*-Sutter Rogers, Plumas County landowner and EFRT program participant*

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[READ SUTTER'S STORY](#)

- [Report](#)



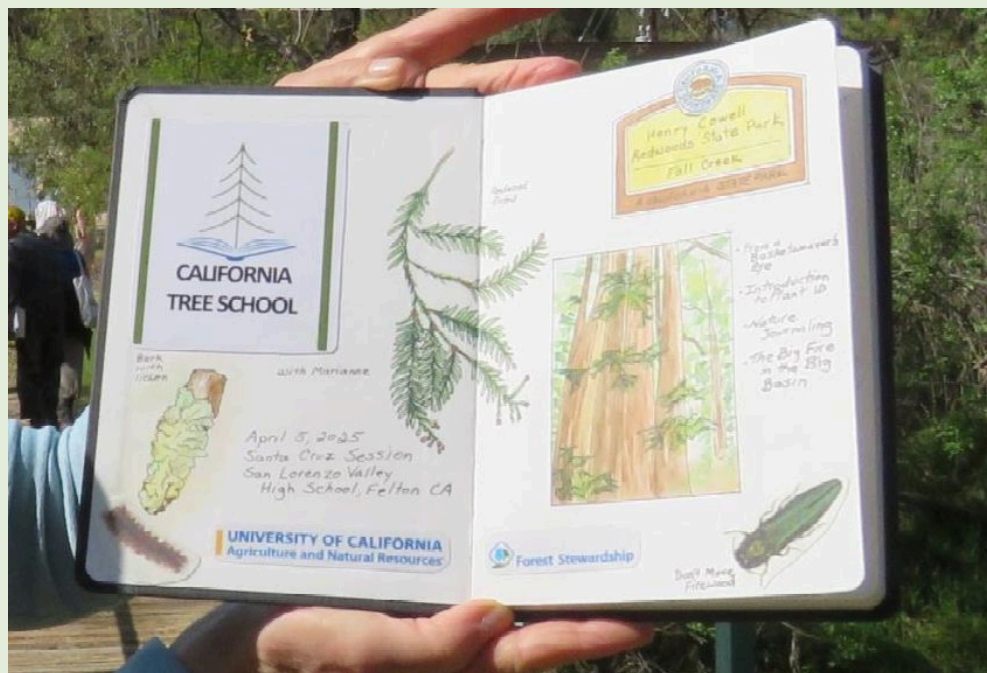
## **Making Moves to an Online, Asynchronous Platform**

*Meet Jordan Mesias, the Post-Fire team's Instructional Designer II.*

From [UC ANR Employee News](#): "Jordan Mesias joined the UC ANR Fire Network on March 10 as an instructional designer for the Post Fire Forest Resilience education program. He will be responsible for developing an online, self-paced course to promote post-fire education for private forest landowners. His goal is to help fire-affected communities by empowering them with the post fire management concepts and strategies to restore their forested land."

## **STATEWIDE UC ANR FORESTRY NEWS**

Stay up to date with the latest events and stories across California!



### **CA TREE SCHOOL 2025**

*With the help of local forest and fire advisors, CA Tree School came to Santa Cruz and Oakhurst*

The Forest Stewardship team hosted two sessions of California Tree School: Santa Cruz on Saturday, April 5, and Oakhurst on Saturday, April 12. **The two sessions combined saw 173 registered participants, offered 46 classes, and hosted 16 local organizations at the lunchtime Exhibitor Faire.**

Highlights are available on our [Forest Stewardship Instagram](#).  
All photos from both sessions are available on our [Facebook page](#).

**The CA Tree School webpage has been updated** with various 2025 class presentations! Dive into lessons on "Truffle Fungi of the Sierra Nevadas", "Planting Hardwoods and Conifers After a Wildfire", "Dynamics of Coastal Forests", and more.

**CA TREE SCHOOL WEBPAGE**

## **UCCE WELCOMES NEW FOREST ADVISOR**

*Kane Russell is the new forest and natural resources advisor for Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra counties.*

Forest landowners in Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra counties: meet your area's forest and natural resources advisor, Kane Russell!



Prior to joining UCCE, Kane worked as a forest ecologist at Yosemite National Park, where he helped manage a mechanical fuels reduction program to protect the park's iconic landscapes and at-risk communities from high-severity wildfire. Kane earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from UC Berkeley, where he studied the effects of prescribed burning and other treatments on young Sierra Nevada mixed conifer stands.

Raised on the Central Coast, Kane's first introduction to the Sierra Nevada was at Berkeley's forestry field camp in Meadow Valley. "I'm excited to return to the place that sparked my passion for forestry," Kane said. "I look forward to working with and learning from the many devoted people and organizations here to build more resilient forests and communities together."

Kane is based at the UCCE office in Quincy and can be reached at [kw Russell@ucanr.edu](mailto:kw Russell@ucanr.edu) and (530) 283-6125.

**UCCE PLUMAS WEBSITE**

## **AMERICAN FORESTS HOSTS REFORESTATION FIELD TRAINING**

*Register today for a session of Cone Camp near you!*

Learn to identify, monitor, and collect seeds at [Cone Camp](#)! Attendees will participate in a 2-day field training and 2-3 hour online prerequisite course. 4 sessions will be held over this summer.

The California Reforestation Pipeline Partnership presents

## **Cone Camp 2025**

**4 locations to choose from:**



Meet other forest managers and stewards! All skill levels and affiliations are welcome to join. The participation fee is \$25.

*Please note this is not a UC ANR event, and all questions should be directed to American Forests.*

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **CELEBRATE WOMEN IN FORESTRY**

*Four Forest Stewardship participants share insights on the highs and lows of stewarding forestland.*

To celebrate Women's History Month this March, we interviewed four women landowners about their forestland, helpful resources, and more. See a sneak peek below, and view all stories on the Forest Research and Outreach blog.

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### ***What advice would you give a woman new to owning forestland?***

"Know that it's possible for you to do it. I've never labeled anything that I do "men's work". I just think of it as my work. All kinds of people can work outside, and don't let anybody tell you that you can't. Stay in shape, exercise, and get strong. **Let go of any preconceived notions of what it is to be a woman so you can be the woman that you are, not the woman that other people think you should be.**"

*-Julianna, Del Norte County*

"**Get your hands dirty and talk to people.** Landowners are always happy to share their insight, and you can ask them questions like "Why did you prepare that section for burning and not that section? Why do you want to keep cedars?" There are so many questions that you can only ask when you have the land and landowner in front of you."

*-Sarah, El Dorado County*

"It can seem daunting, and it's been a lot of work to do as much as we have on this land. But **I've seen what neglect did to this forest, and I feel really grateful and proud** of all the work we have done."

*-Joy, Amador County*

"Allow space for opening awareness and curiosity and try to find places of enjoyment that already exist. **Instead of trying to put a stamp of desire on the land, accept what it already has to offer**, and learn more about the things that are of benefit to the land."

*-Amy, Mendocino County*

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[BLOG SITE](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Biomass Facility Tour: Tuolumne County**

**When:** Wednesday June 4, 2025; 10:30 AM

**Where:** Heartwood Biomass Facility, Jamestown CA

**[REGISTER](#)**

## **Forest Stewardship Webinar- Forest Roads**

**When:** Tuesday June 10, 2025; 6-7:30 PM

**Where:** Zoom

**[REGISTER](#)**

## **Forest Stewardship Workshop- Yuba/Nevada County**

**When:** Online July 1-August 26, 2025; in-person field trip Saturday July 26, 2025

**Where:** Zoom and in-person

**[REGISTER](#)**

## **Forest Stewardship Field Day- CALFIRE'S L.A Moran Reforestation Center**

**When:** Friday July 18, 2025; 10 AM-12 PM

**Where:** L.A Moran Reforestation Center, Davis CA

**[REGISTER](#)**

# OLD GROWTH

*What makes a forest resilient?*

2022's "Promoting Forest Resilience with Fewer Trees" blog is a great one to revisit at any time. This blog breaks down the definition of a resilient forest, and activities forest landowners can do to increase resiliency.

Here is a key insight for landowners when considering management activities:

**"Think about forest structure in two regards:**

- 1) how fire moves through forests during the peak of fire season, and**
- 2) how trees might compete for water during a drought."**

**[READ THE BLOG](#)**

*Would you like to see a specific topic addressed next time?*

*Send me an email at [gndean@ucanr.edu](mailto:gndean@ucanr.edu).*

**Keep in touch!**



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