



**University of California Division of Agriculture
and Natural Resources**

2025 Fire Network Annual Report

February 2026



UC ANR Fire Network
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources



The UC ANR Fire Network

The UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) Fire Network is dedicated to improving fire resilience for all Californians, developing and delivering science-based information to support healthy communities and ecosystems. The Fire Network offers programming through our statewide team of local extension advisors, campus faculty and specialists, and staff. Our team has expertise across a wide range of disciplines, including fire science and ecology, home hardening and defensible space, community and regional planning, beneficial fire, targeted grazing, and more.

California faces a wide array of fire-related challenges across both rural and urban landscapes. To help address these issues, the Fire Network delivers research and extension programming in four key thematic areas related to land stewardship, wildfire preparedness, post-fire recovery, and workforce development. As you'll see in this report, **the Fire Network fills a unique niche in California's fire resiliency work**, with a locally based research-to-policy-to-action framework that answers key questions, generates innovative solutions, and builds needed capacity for implementation.

A year in review

In 2025, the Fire Network partnered with CAL FIRE, the California Natural Resources Agency, the legislature, and others on key policies related to beneficial fire, home hardening, targeted grazing, and defensible space; brought in millions of state, federal, and private grant dollars to communities where it works; authored seventeen peer-reviewed publications; and provided leadership and support for the California Fire Science Consortium and California's 30+ prescribed burn associations. The Fire Network also:

- Treated **1,100+** acres through UC ANR-supported prescribed burn associations
- Organized or presented at **227** events
- Reached more than **16,875** people through events
- Featured in more than **105** media stories

Empowering science-informed land stewardship

Fire is a common theme across California's diverse ecosystems and communities, and the Fire Network provides resources, training, research, and inspiration to help Californians better steward their landscapes.

Fire Network members are implementing applied research projects to understand the efficacy of fuel and vegetation management strategies like prescribed fire, thinning, and targeted grazing and the impacts they have on ecosystems and communities. The team is leading related research across the state, including:

- **Assessing the impacts of fuel and vegetation management treatments** in coast redwood forests (Benterou, Jones, Norville, Satink Wolfson, Shive, Woodward, York, Zahra).
- **Determining the efficacy of targeted grazing** for fuels reduction in various ecosystems across California (Low, Macon, Pastrana, Quinn-Davidson, Satomi, Schohr, Stackhouse).
- **Evaluating water demands of conifer encroachment** in oak woodlands (Holbrook, Quinn-Davidson, Stackhouse, Valachovic).
- **Evaluating the effectiveness of incentives** to get landowners to participate in land stewardship activities (Ingram and Kocher).
- **Determining how to successfully plant conifer seedlings** with minimal preparation (Shive).
- **Monitoring the long-term effects of prescribed fire and thinning treatments** on various ecosystems in California (Benterou, Deak, Godfrey, Moritz, Norville, Satink Wolfson, Wisdom, Zahra).
- **Tracking beneficial fire training events and treatment acres** by community-based organizations across California (Pastrana, Quinn-Davidson, and partners).
- **Understanding oak regeneration** and the relative impacts of cattle grazing and deer browse on oak seedling success (Quinn-Davidson and Stackhouse).



How the Fire Network's research has informed policy in 2025

UC ANR is known for its unique research-to-policy-to-action approach, where locally based advisors develop research that directly informs policy and leads to improved implementation on the ground. Fire Network members exemplified this approach in 2025, effecting change across a wide range of topical areas.

BENEFICIAL FIRE: 2025 brought significant statewide attention and movement around beneficial fire, including efforts by Governor Newsom to identify and address implementation barriers. Quinn-Davidson was invited to represent California's practitioner community, working with state leaders to convene and facilitate a Beneficial Fire Roundtable in Sacramento in the spring, and collaborating to shape the Governor's October [Executive Order on Beneficial Fire](#). The EO includes 14 directives that reduce barriers for beneficial fire projects across the state.



OAK WOODLAND RESTORATION: Valachovic and Stackhouse interviewed foresters, landowners, and licensed timber operators to assess the effectiveness of the Oak Woodland Restoration Exemption and Special Prescription, which became permitting tools in 2016. Valachovic used these data to support a permit revision that reduces costs and increases utility [AB 2276 (Wood, 2024)]. During 2025, she worked with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to finish the enabling regulations. The improved permit supports oak restoration and resiliency, expanding permit availability to new parts of California and harmonizing standards to ease operational understanding and reduce costs.



TARGETED GRAZING: Fire Network members contributed to a number of statewide policy efforts related to targeted grazing. Research by Macon, Low, Satomi, and Schohr informed the rulemaking process for prescribed herbivory on California Department of Fish and Wildlife lands, as well as the 2025 update to California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. Schohr also contributed research findings to the CA Range Management Advisory Committee – State Lands Grazing Packet. Macon and his colleague Leslie Roche also authored a policy brief, [Expanding Prescribed Grazing for Wildfire Resilience in California](#).

Empowering prescribed fire on private lands

Over the last fifteen years, the social and political landscape around prescribed fire has grown by leaps and bounds. **UC ANR has played an instrumental role in this evolution, both through community organizing as well as statewide leadership in policy and training.** Notably, ANR brought the prescribed burn association (PBA) model to California in 2017, filling a need for locally based capacity. What started with one ANR-led PBA in Humboldt County has grown to include more than 30 PBAs statewide, and the Fire Network remains at the center, providing support, mentorship, and vision. Every year, the Fire Network hosts statewide PBA Leaders’ Retreats, which enable cross-training, connection, and shared learning among the state’s PBA leaders.



Map of network of California PBAs (Oct. 2025)

The Fire Network has also worked with CAL FIRE, the legislature, and other partners to develop and deliver the California state-certified burn boss (CARX) program, and to provide liability protections for prescribed and cultural fire, including a changed liability standard (SB332, Dodd 2021) and creation of a \$20 million Prescribed Fire Claims Fund (via SB926, Dodd 2022). As noted above in the research to policy section, Director Quinn-Davidson also worked closely in 2025 with state leaders to inform the Governor’s October Executive Order on Beneficial Fire, which builds on previous efforts to reduce barriers to this important work.

Fire Network members lead 7 PBAs across California. In 2025, UC ANR-led PBAs:

- Reached more than **1,620 people** through 24 trainings and public events.
- Treated roughly **1,102 acres** through more than 40 broadcast and pile burns.
- UC ANR staff conducted **75 site visits** for local PBAs and authored or reviewed 25 burn plans and 23 smoke management plans.

In 2025, the Network also brought together 35 prescribed fire experts from across the state to develop the “Guidebook for Prescribed Burning in California.” This collection of information, ranging from prescribed fire policy and liability to approaches to carry out and assess planned burns, is tailored to the specific needs of California landowners, who face a critical gap in access to knowledge and resources about implementing prescribed fire in California. The Fire Network leveraged UCCE’s 2025 RREA grant funding and sponsorship by the California Fire Science Consortium to support this effort. Publication expected late 2026.

Fire Network members also showed national leadership on PBAs in 2025, publishing results of a national survey of PBAs and organizing the first-ever national PBA convening as part of the Association for Fire Ecology’s International Fire Congress in New Orleans, LA in December. The PBA event brought ~100 people together from more than 40 PBAs for a day of workshops, networking, and shared learning. The “PBA Takeover” of the Congress was widely celebrated as one of the best parts of the ~700-person event.

Continuing our commitment to connect Californians with the latest fire science from the University of California system.

Quinn-Davidson serves as the Principal Investigator for the California Fire Science Consortium, a fire science delivery program with a statewide hub at UC Berkeley and a network of prominent fire scientists based throughout the state. Quinn-Davidson is co-leading the Consortium alongside UC Berkeley professor Scott Stephens, who has led the group since its inception more than a decade ago. The Consortium involves other Fire Network members, including Valachovic, Kocher, and Holbrook. The CFSC is supported with federal and CAL FIRE funding.



Network members hosted or presented at 58 events related to fire science, ecology, and management in 2025, reaching more than 4,800 people. For example, Satink Wolfson, Benterou, and partners hosted the Central Coast Good Fire Fair in Henry Cowell State Park, Felton, CA in October, 2025. The Fair aimed to introduce residents to the benefits of good fire and improve attitudes towards using prescribed fire as a fuels management and ecosystem restoration tool. The event featured local exhibitors and hands-on activities for children and families. This year, partners were able to implement two demonstration burns for the public to observe. Roughly 2,241 people attended the Good Fire Fair.



Satink Wolfson, Benterou, York, and Kocher supported the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association in hosting the second annual Forester Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (FTREX) in late October 2025 in Georgetown. Forty participants spent five days learning about local fire ecology, how fire functions in forests managed for timber, fire behavior, and permitting, culminating in hands-on training on multiple prescribed burns in El Dorado County. By bringing together forestry and fire professionals, FTREX aims to empower forestry professionals to understand the applications of prescribed fire to steward forest ecosystems and resources.



Fire Network members are actively engaged in the Association for Fire Ecology (AFE)—the field’s most prominent professional organization. Director Quinn-Davidson is the Vice President of AFE’s Board of Directors, and she has served as Co-Chair for the last two AFE International Fire Congresses. The 2025 Congress took place in New Orleans, Louisiana, bringing ~700 people together from across the US and the world for a week of workshops, conference presentations, field tours, and networking. Quinn-Davidson and other Fire Network members and partners collaborated to host the first-ever “PBA Takeover” of the Congress, bringing PBA leaders together from across the country.

Tribal engagement and partnerships

The Fire Network works with Tribes and supports cultural burning when appropriate, both at the local level and in a statewide policy context. In October of 2024, the Fire Network hired Sung-Jereczek as the new Beneficial Burning and Tribal Land Stewardship Advisor for Mendocino and Lake counties. She is working on building meaningful Tribal relationships throughout the region, alongside the Native American Community Partnerships Advisory Council and the newly launched UC Tribally-focused Extension cohort. Her work consists of expanding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements and supporting culturally relevant outreach and educational programming surrounding wildfire resilience, cultural burning objectives, food sovereignty, oak woodland restoration, and climate resiliency. She also supports Tribes in navigating regulatory permitting processes (e.g., CEQA) and policy opportunities, such as SB 310. Additional programming includes removing barriers for authentic, meaningful, and reciprocal Tribal engagement and partnerships within UC Cooperative Extension. Quinn-Davidson also collaborates closely with Tribes and cultural practitioners to effect state-level policy change around beneficial fire.



Photo: M. Horn

In 2025, Network members partnered with local Tribes and Tribal organizations to provide support and professional development opportunities. Sung-Jereczek is supporting the Mendocino Resource Conservation District in Tribal outreach and engagement on the Leonard Lake Preserve to help coordinate two forest health outreach events which would include culturally relevant and Tribally-led curriculum. Through her efforts administering the San Benito County Wildfire Resilience Program, Satink Wolfson helps Native Stewardship Corp members with the Amah Mutsun Land Trust participate in prescribed fire and cultural burning trainings.

Community resilience

Catastrophic fires in recent years have shown that fire issues are not just in the wildlands; there are critical actions that must also be taken at the home, neighborhood, and community scales. The Fire Network works at these various scales to increase understanding and adoption of home hardening and defensible space actions, provide preparedness resources for both rural and urban communities, and to translate research to policy to better foster community resilience.

Building a pathway forward for supporting resilient communities

In 2025, Network members engaged communities across California, helping inspire action and fire adaptation. The 2025 firestorms in Los Angeles reminded everyone that fundamental vulnerabilities exist throughout California's homes, businesses, and built infrastructure, even in very urban communities. Part of the Network's message, as trusted community partners, is to identify actions people can take to help prepare their houses, properties, or businesses for future fire exposures. Critical to this message is that fire adaptation is something that everyone should do—not just actions for others to take.



Because of the significance of the LA fires, the Network held several statewide webinars to share lessons from the LA firestorms, and saw a strong increase in requests for information on community protection strategies. Interest in learning more about wildfire insurance and how to make a home more attractive for underwriters was also popular. The Network also offered classes and webinars, provided technical consultations, and helped train UC Master Gardeners to share messages about upgrading vents to resist embers and the importance of fuel reduction, among other key actions.

Additionally, in 2025, Network members continued to engage with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force to help craft state strategies for fire adaptation, work locally on disaster planning and community wildfire protection plans, and support approaches to improving the insurability of homes and businesses. The California Department of Insurance worked with Valachovic and Moritz to participate in a strategy group exploring the creation of the nation's first public wildfire catastrophe model.

During public hearings on Zone 0 fuel clearance standards, there were questions about the ability of hydrated plants and shrubs to help protect a structure from wildfire. In response to these questions, Valachovic, Godfrey, and Pitton collaborated with the UC Berkeley Gollner Lab and local fire departments to experimentally evaluate the effects of irrigation on the flammability of foundational plantings in near-home landscaping. In replicated experiments conducted on a 70-degree day with a 15 mph wind, the team found that a common shrub was ignited by radiant heat from an adjacent small building within less than 2 minutes, regardless of irrigation levels. This work demonstrated that foundation plantings may not protect a structure from the heat produced by an adjacent burning building and may serve as additional fuel. Valachovic, Godfrey, Pitton, and collaborators will build upon this research in 2026.



Enhancing our scientific understanding of plant flammability and land use impacts on wildfire behavior

UC Cooperative Extension Wildfire Specialist, **Max Moritz**, is focused on changing fire-related policy and facilitating a more science-based understanding of how to sustainably live on fire-prone landscapes. Flammability testing of near-home landscaping plants is a relatively new field of study, particularly because of the lack of standardized testing to determine the flammability of different plants. Through his work, Moritz is collaborating with the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden to design and implement standardized methods for flammability testing to inform plant choices for near-home landscaping. In 2025, Moritz and colleagues continued to work on a project mapping native shrub and grass fuel types in southern California to start testing plant community flammability at the landscape level. This new project aims to reduce sources of ignition in wildland areas through restoring native plant species in key ignition corridors. Moritz's plant flammability research has informed policy and planning efforts and the regional and statewide level.

Moritz also continues to expand the Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program (RWMP), piloted in Santa Barbara County with the Fire Safe Council, with support from the Moore Foundation's Wildfire Resilience Initiative. The earlier pilot phase of the RWMP emphasized the southern coastal area around Santa Barbara and neighboring municipalities; now, it is being scaled northward across the entire county. Notably, the RWMP includes prioritization of risk mitigation activities from the individual parcel up to landscape scales where land use planning is part of the solution.



In 2025, Network members hosted or presented at 70 events about home hardening and defensible space for rural and urban communities, reaching more than 3,490 residents, farmers, ranchers, and other interested community members. Members also collaborated with Assemblywomen Diane Dixon and Gail Pellerin on two wildfire preparedness town halls in Orange and Santa Cruz counties.

Additionally, many of UC ANR's livestock and natural resources advisors are closely involved with their local Ag or Livestock Pass Programs. Generally, all UC ANR-supported Pass Programs have resulted in improved relationships with local fire and law enforcement and ranchers, which has led to greater collaboration on non-emergency-related projects. In 2025, Livestock Advisors supported the following Ag Pass Programs:

- Macon hosted Ag Pass trainings for the Amador and El Dorado County programs, reaching 40 producers and growers.
- Woodmansee helps administer the Siskiyou County Livestock Pass Program. In 2025, 35 people newly participated in the Siskiyou Program and the Program was featured in four presentations and community events.



Supporting UC Master Gardeners in fire education and outreach efforts

UC Master Gardeners are a trusted source of information for the public, and volunteers are often asked to advise on home hardening and defensible space issues. **In 2025, Fire Network trainings reached approximately 1,500 Master Gardener volunteers.** The Fire Network also collaborated with the statewide Master Gardener Program to develop science-based wildfire preparedness trainings to equip volunteers with the information and resources needed to assist residents. The Network is developing 11 trainings about fire ecology and wildfire preparedness, which will be required training for more than 6,000 Master Gardener volunteers statewide starting in 2026.



Post-fire restoration and recovery

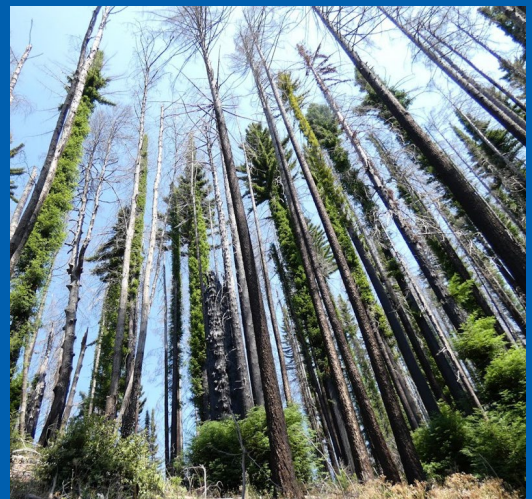
With every fire season, more of California's landscapes and communities are in need of post-fire resources and recovery tools. The Fire Network provides post-fire programming and resources, including research and monitoring to address ongoing challenges in ecosystem restoration in novel post-fire environments, technical expertise and support for recovering urban and rural communities, and statewide Post-Fire Forest Resilience Workshops to assist private forest landowners recovering from catastrophic wildfire.

In 2025, the Fire Network organized or helped facilitate eight events related to post-fire recovery, reaching more than 170 residents, natural resource professionals, and other community members. Forest Advisor Ricky Satomi worked with Schohr to host the Leading Through Trauma training for professionals and community leaders who work directly with farmers and ranchers impacted by wildfires, droughts, predators, and other stressors. The training provided targeted professional development to enhance the abilities of technical service providers to communicate with and support farmers and ranchers dealing with complex social, emotional, economic, and environmental challenges.

Improving our understanding of post-fire management in coastal forests

UC Cooperative Extension Forest and Fuel Specialist, Kristen Shive, and Forest Advisor, Brian Woodward, are improving our scientific understanding of fuel characterization and recovery following wildfire in coast redwood forests. Shive and Woodward and their collaborators were awarded a \$679,982 CAL FIRE grant to measure and characterize fuel development post-fire across a wide range of fire severities and develop allometric equations for fuel and carbon quantification specific to redwood forests.

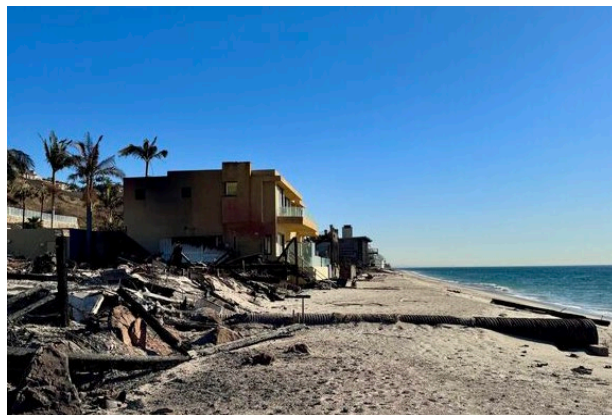
Woodward and collaborators are also researching ways to better assess the need for post-fire management strategies in conifer forests in the Central Coast. In 2024, Woodward and collaborators were awarded funding from Save the Redwoods League to evaluate historical trends in burn severity in coast redwood forests across the range. In 2025, Woodward began the process of updating regional burn severity maps for all fires that have occurred in the region over the past 40 years. Once completed, the project will provide a robust understanding of modern burn severity patterns across the region, with the anticipated outcome of being able to inform more targeted and effective post-fire management strategies in areas that have experienced multiple wildfires in short periods of time.



In January 2026, **UC Cooperative Extension and the Forest Vegetation Management Conference released the updated “Reforestation Manual for Conifers in California”**. This textbook represents 40 years of advancements in reforestation research and field expertise developed since the last California reforestation manual was published in 1971. The revision was initiated by the Forest Vegetation Management Conference with Satomi and his colleague Bill Stewart leading the editorial process. The manual serves as a definitive guide for practitioners working within California's challenging Mediterranean climate.

Responding to the 2025 wildfires in Los Angeles County

The Fire Network’s community resilience and built environment lead, Yana Valachovic, took two trips to the Eaton and Palisades fires in the weeks following the fires to look for examples where surviving homes withstood the ferocity of the fire and for signs of defensible space and home hardening in action. She used the data gathered from these trips and other post-fire investigations to help develop critical fire mitigation strategies pertinent throughout California and other wildfire-prone areas in the US. Additionally, Moritz’s research around plant flammability and land use is informing policy and planning efforts following the 2025 Los Angeles fire storms. Moritz was engaged by the Blue Ribbon Commission to develop recommendations to rebuild communities impacted by the 2025 Los Angeles fires. His recommendations can be found in Mullin et al. (2025).



The Network team also collaborated with UC Master Gardeners to create a series of peer-reviewed post-fire factsheets to help residents with drinking water, home garden, poultry, and soil-management issues post-wildfire. Since then, these documents have been shared with hundreds of Master Gardener volunteers and residents in the greater Los Angeles area and in other western US states to help prepare for future disaster response. The Network is partnering with researchers in these fields to host a series of four webinars in February 2026 highlighting ongoing research efforts that address wildfire impacts on communities.

Post-fire forest resilience workshops

Kocher and Reidy led and administered the Post-Fire Forest Resilience Program to assist and educate private forest landowners following catastrophic wildfire. The Program, funded by the USDA FS State and Private Forestry, provided post-fire education through workshops, developing and sharing educational materials, and assessing landowner needs and the effectiveness of post-fire landowner assistance programs. In 2025, the Program hosted two workshop series reaching 59 people, bringing the total number of people who registered for nine workshops to 293 since the Program’s inception in 2022. Workshops were hosted in the footprints of the 2018 Camp Fire and the 2024 Park Fire in Butte county, and 2021 Dixie Fire in Plumas County. Topics included fire effects on mixed conifers, oaks, and other resprouting trees as well as erosion control, road management, hazard tree removal, site preparation, planting and vegetation control including managing shrubs and resprouting oaks seven years post-fire.



Monitoring the outcomes of post-fire reforestation for landscapes and people

UC Cooperative Extension's Forest Stewardship Team is working on a number of research and monitoring projects in post-fire environments across California, including:

REFORESTATION SUCCESS: In partnership with the El Dorado and Feather River Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), Kocher, Wade, Dutch, and Reidy continued to monitor the effectiveness of reforestation efforts for small private forest landowners affected by the Dixie and Caldor fires. In 2024, they developed a monitoring program with the RCDs including identifying sampling locations and training RCD staff to collect and enter data for areas planted in 2023. In 2025, they analyzed and produced a report on reforestation success to allow RCD managers to determine where additional short-term treatments might be needed to achieve reforestation goals. In 2025, they advised the RCDs on a second year of monitoring to assess the effectiveness of 2024 plantings and are completing an analysis and report for those plantings.



LANDOWNER PERCEPTIONS: In early 2025, Kocher and Wade completed interviews with landowners who received reforestation assistance from the two Resource Conservation Districts in 2023 to better understand their views on the post-fire restoration practices carried out on their land. They shared preliminary data indicating overall positive landowner views at multiple conferences, and are comparing landowner perceptions of reforestation practices and outcomes with monitoring data of reforestation outcomes on their properties. They will develop these findings into a manuscript in 2026.

Post-fire forest resilience workshop field trip evaluations indicated that 96% of participants 'strongly agree – agree' that they planned to implement one or more of the post-fire management practices they learned about in the workshop. Some of these topics include replanting, use of herbicide for invasive weeds, prescribed burning, and applying for assistance programs.

Workforce development and professional belonging

Fire issues in California demand a robust workforce with a wide range of talents and skills. The Fire Network helps grow the workforce through targeted training, mentorship, and policy efforts across a wide range of geographies and cultures.

In 2025, the Fire Network organized or facilitated 19 events related to workforce development, reaching more than 170 students, early career professionals, and other interested community members. Deak and Laura Wisdom collaborated with The Nature Conservancy to host another Women's Chainsaw Training in November 2025, while Henri Holbrook and collaborators hosted five Fire Lighter Trainings throughout the year. Professional trainings helped build technical skills and competency in using and maintaining chainsaws as well as implementing prescribed burns.



In April 2025, 43 extension and extension-related professionals from across the nation participated in the Cooperative Extension Service Wildland Fire Peer-Learning Exchange at the UC Merced Yosemite Field Station in Wawona, California. Spearheaded by Deak, Low, Norville, Quinn-Davidson, Satink Wolfson, Shive, and other extension colleagues from across the US, the Exchange featured train-the-trainer style presentations, demonstrations, field tours, and discussion panels around wildfire preparedness, fuel reduction, and post-fire recovery. The Exchange provided a valuable forum for participants across the country to share resources, information, implementation strategies, barriers, and success stories across regions and disciplines, resulting in multiple cross-state collaborations between the Fire Network and other state extension agencies.



The Fire Network is committed to continuing the development and delivery of novel programs that address critical workforce development needs. **In 2025, the Network brought in \$1,590,429 in grant dollars to begin work on various workforce projects starting in 2026**, including: creating opportunities to teach children and young adults about prescribed fire to improve fire workforce diversity, recruitment, and retention; training new and existing targeted grazers on the latest science and technologies related to grazing for fuels reduction; and developing a comprehensive, professionally delivered fire-resilience educational program to help California’s residents, professionals, and communities accelerate fire adaptation and resilience actions.

Leading and supporting programs that help grow our fire and forestry workforces

California State Certified Burn Boss Program (CARX)

In 2018, California passed Senate Bill 1260, which mandated the development of a State-Certified Burn Boss Program. The program is intended to increase the number of qualified personnel who can plan and lead prescribed burns throughout California, and to provide a recognized standard that ties to recent state policy protections. In 2022, the CARX program was identified as Key Action 2.2 in California’s Strategic Plan for Expanding the Use of Beneficial Fire, and continued technical assistance and training by the University of California Cooperative Extension, both for the burn boss program and for prescribed fire more broadly, was Key Action 2.3 in that same plan (California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, 2022). The Fire Network has played a pivotal role in the development and growth of the program, with Quinn-Davidson serving on the CARX curriculum development committee, hosting the first two years of CARX courses and all annual refreshers to date, and maintaining a statewide contact list for those interested in becoming certified. In 2025, the Fire Network hosted one full CARX class and two refresher trainings. There are currently 68 certified CARXs, and many more on the way to certification.



Forestry and Natural Resources Career Mentorship Program

Low and Satomi collaborate with the Placer Resource Conservation District and other forestry professionals to run the Forestry and Natural Resources Career Mentorship Program. The statewide Program helps to address California's significant fire- and forestry-related workforce development challenges by supporting the professional development of early-career professionals and students studying forestry and natural resources. In 2025, both Low and Satomi served as Steering Committee members, helping administer annual programming to 100+ students and forestry professionals. Low also led and developed two workshops related to professional development skills, career path exploration, and networking. The Program was awarded a \$279,457 CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grant to administer the Program through 2029.



Women's Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (WTREX)

WTREX are modeled after Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX), which have been in operation since 2008. The TREX model assembles diverse participants for ~two weeks of hands-on training and treatments, melding live-fire training with deeper learning in fire ecology, policy, and social dynamics. The WTREX Program, led by Lenya Quinn-Davidson, re-framed this model, bringing participants of all genders and backgrounds together to burn and learn in an intentionally supportive, positive environment. WTREX attendees have come from most US states and more than 30 other countries across 6 continents. The program had its roots in northern California, but quickly grew to include the entire US, and it has now grown to an international scale, with events having taken place all over the world. In 2025, Quinn-Davidson partnered on two international WTREX events: one focused on Indigenous women in the far north of Queensland, Australia, and another on the Orinoco River in eastern Colombia. 2026 will bring events to Spain, Brazil, and Mexico. WTREX has effectively built a global network of empowered fire practitioners and leaders—including many Californians—in a time where community and innovation are most needed.

Media engagement

In 2025, Fire Network members were featured in more than 100 media stories with outlets including the Atlantic, CNN, New York Times, NPR, Politico, Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Chronicle, and Science. Network members were featured in six podcasts in 2025, including LAist, Imperfect Paradise, On Connection, Sheep Stuff Ewe Should Know, and more.



The Network has also invested significant time building our online presence through our website and profiles on BlueSky, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X. In 2025, our accounts reached more than 2,730 accounts and garnered over 8,000 engagements and views. Our website had 62,182 new users, consisting of California residents, national, and international users. Our most popular content continues to be our wildfire preparedness resources, specifically, our real-time fire activity map (55,096 views) and smoke readiness (9,819 views) and evacuation preparedness pages (8,902 views). We continue to prioritize collaborating with partner agencies and organizations to share content and information that can amplify information about wildfire adaptation and resilience strategies for all Californians.

2025 Fire Network peer-reviewed & educational publications

Empowering science-informed land stewardship

- Baldwin, H., S. Sommarstrom, R. Staniford, **S. Kocher**, J. Webster, B. Rynearson, T. Griffis, L. Lippitt, T. Jopson, M. Ritchie, J.P. Berrill, D. Owen, G. Giusti. 2026. Reforestation Manual for California Conifers. W. Stewart and **R. Satomi**. 287.
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- **Deak, A.**, J. E. Fawcett, **L. Quinn-Davidson**, C. Adlam, J. R. Weir, **J. Stackhouse**. 2025. Burning from the ground up: the structure and impact of Prescribed Burn Associations in the United States. *International Journal of Wildland Fire* 34: WF24178. <https://doi.org/10.1071/WF24178>.
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- Madakumbura, G.D., **M.A. Moritz**, K.A. McKinnon, A.P. Williams, S. Rahimi, B. Bass, J. Norris, R. Fu, A. Hall. 2025. Anthropogenic warming drives earlier wildfire season onset in California. *Science Advances*, 11(32): p.eadt2041. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adt2041>.
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