

Forestry and Natural Resources



Program Highlights 2021–22:

- North State Forest GIS Training on ArcGIS Pro.
- Home Hardening Design Training with Yuba County Fire Safe Council.
- Three statewide FIT trainings with participation from Penn Valley Union Elementary and Foresthill Union School District educators.
- 30 students participating in Forestry Career Mentorship Program Mentorship.
- Program expansion of Project Learning Tree with new Northern Region Coordinator (<http://ucanr.edu/plt>).
- Forest Stewardship Workshop (<http://ucanr.edu/forestryworkshops/>).

Forests and woodlands encompass over 65% of acreage in Placer County and 85% in Nevada County. These systems continue to face unprecedented mortality from drought, bark beetle and wildfire. To ensure the persistence of our ecosystems and their residents, UCCE works with private forest landowners, professional forest practitioners, local agencies, and rural householders to tackle major issues of concern.

Workforce shortages represent a significant barrier to increasing resiliency of local forests. To improve local capacity, we provided targeted forest stewardship, home hardening and GIS trainings to landowners and resource professionals. We also expanded our career mentorship program to help collegiate forestry students work with local professionals throughout Nevada and Placer Counties.

Developing career pathways for future generations of natural resource managers is also critical to sustaining our rural communities. This year, we worked with several youth-focused education efforts including the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) K-12 educator training and California Project Learning Tree program (PLT). FIT prepares California's K-12 teachers with resource expertise to effectively teach about forest ecology, resource management, and natural resource careers in their classrooms. The weeklong program applies science-based curricula compatible with the Next Generation Science Standards to explore many subject areas including environmental science, physical science, social science, biology, forestry, and history.

Changing markets and a growing emphasis on small diameter fuels reduction necessitate alternative silvicultural practices to ensure that forest management remains ecologically and economically sustainable. We are currently collaborating with various universities, state and federal agencies on the Adaptive Management Experiment (www.adaptive-forest-management-experiment.com). Initial treatments at the Grouse Ridge Field Station have been completed including establishment of a seedling provenance study.



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