

Forest Stewardship Education Newsletter: July 2020

Upcoming 2020 Forest Stewardship Workshops

August 24th – October 21st

Forest Stewardship Online and In-person Field Day Workshop

Location: Online and UC Berkeley Forestry CAMP, Meadow Valley, CA (Plumas County)

October 3rd

Follow-up Workshop for Ukiah, Berkeley, Redding and Blodgett Participants

Location: Zoom

More information coming soon.

November 7th, 8th and 21st

Forest Stewardship Workshop

Location: Felton, CA (Santa Cruz County)

Additional workshop hosted by your local UCCE office can be found by searching 'UCCE (your county)'

Greetings from UC ANR

"Whether you live in a mixed conifer forest, oak woodland, chaparral or grassland habitat, returning prescribed fire to California is part of well-managed landscapes," said Fadzayi Mashiri, UC Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor and coordinator of a recent UCCE training for landowners interested in using prescribed fire as a management tool.

California forests have adapted over time to living with fire, but fire suppression has led to dense forests and overgrown vegetation capable of fueling high intensity fires. Prescribed fire is one method landowners can use to reduce forest density, control invasive plants and weeds, and reduce fire intensity should a wildfire occur on your forestland.

This Forest Stewardship Newsletter is dedicated to prescribed fire. We hope this information and resources will prompt you to consider using prescribed fire as part of your forest management plan.

– Kim Ingram, kcingram@ucanr.edu



Workshop participants at Blodgett Research Forest standing in a unit that has been treated with prescribed fire.

"Thank you for offering this workshop. Even in a pandemic it was effective. Now I have work to do!!" – Workshop participant

Prescribed Fire Webinar Series

This spring UC Cooperative Extension, with support and collaboraton from California Climate Investments, Cal Fire, the Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council and the North Fork Mono Tribe, held a prescribed fire webinar series workshop for landowners, natural resource managers, and foresters to discuss issues centered around prescribed fire.

The online format of the workshop utilized presentations and moderated Q and A to answer and discuss questions from participants.

Topics discussed in the workshop's five sessions included: **Fire Ecology** with Susie Kocher, UCCE Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor, and Fadzayi Mashiri, UCCE Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor; **Permitting** with Brian Mattos, Cal Fire, and Dave Conway, Mariposa Air Pollution Control District; **Planning** with Steve Engfer, Mariposa County Planner and Rob York, UCCE Forestry Specialist; **Resources for Burning** with Lenya Quinn-Davidson, UCCE Forestry and Fire Advisor, and Robyn Smith, Natural Resources Conservation Services; and **Cultural Burning & PBAs** with Honorable Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe, and Dr. Jared D. Aldern, fire historian.

All the videos plus additional content and resources have been posted for public viewing on the UCCE Mariposa County [website](#).

New and Relevant Online Resources for You!

Looking for additional information on prescribed fire? Check out the Forest Stewardship Workshop Materials [web page](#) which has new information including a prescribed fire go-no-go checklist, a California standardized prescribed fire plan draft template, and a study on prescribed burning in young stands. UCCE Forestry Specialist Rob York shares a [presentation](#) on the importance of developing a prescribed burn plan including permitting, planning elements and good tips. [Presentations and agendas](#) from three years of prescribed fire workshops are posted on the site as well.

[The UCCE Central Sierra Living with Fire](#) website is a great resource that offers publications, websites, events and workshops on living with fire in the central Sierra. Information can be found on defensible space, fire resistant home construction, and living with fire in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Prescribed Fire [web page](#) has additional information on Prescribed Fire Councils, and the Fire in California [web page](#) has information on fire science & ecology, using fire as a tool, and wildfire preparedness & restoration.

Looking for a Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) in your area? Check out the new [Cal PBA website](#) to find the PBAs forming all across California.



Prescribed burn activities at Blodgett

4 Things You May Not Know About Prescribed Fire

1. Native Americans were early innovators with fire, using it for millennia to cultivate basketry supplies, food resources, and other cultural necessities, and to maintain open forests and woodlands to facilitate travel and communication.
2. Research has shown that the nutritional content of forage can be two to three times higher in recently burned areas, and crude protein levels are also consistently higher (Allred.B., et al. (2011). Ungulate preference for burned patches reveals strength of fire-grazing interaction. *Ecology and Evolution* 2011; 1(2): 132-144.)
3. Prescribed fire can be used to control late-season, noxious weeds in rangelands like medusahead, yellow starthistle, and barbed goatgrass.
4. From a fuels perspective, the most effective treatments are often those that involve mechanical thinning followed by prescribed fire.

Yuba-Bear Burn Cooperative Invites Forest Stewardship Participants to Participate in a Prescribed Burn!

Nevada county landowners Janaia Donaldson and Robin Mallgren are working with burn boss Phil Dye of Prometheus Fire Consulting on a 17-acre prescribed broadcast burn planned for early November 2020. It will be the first “official” burn for the Yuba-Bear Burn Cooperative (YBBC), and will be staffed by volunteers (yes, they are recruiting!). The burn will also include a test of a technology under development which uses compressed air waves to constrain fire, and tests of a fire retardant designed to remain viable even after 2” of rain.

They are doing their own prep work on this mixed coniferous forest with considerable fuel loads. Work includes understory thinning of ladders, lopping and scattering; dropping snags; scraping under “leave” trees we want to keep; shortening stumps, scraping control lines within the unit and around a couple structures; and creating a 40 foot buffer zone inside with few flammables within the periphery (there are a lot of logs to move away!). In the fall, leaves will need to be blown or raked from the outer boundary. About half the work has been completed and they welcome additional volunteers to work beside us. Additionally, volunteers can take home free firewood material— good black oak limbs! Contact janaia@yubagals.com if you are interested in volunteering.

Additionally, burn boss Phil Dye is leading a workshop, Saturday August 22nd on “Prepping privately-owned mixed conifer forests for treatment with prescribed fire” on this land. For information, contact Jamie Ervin at YBBC - jamie@sierraforestlegacy.org



Large piles waiting to be burned