

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMUNITY NEWS

Winter 2026

Energy and action: the year of the horse, forestry-style

Hello and welcome to 2026: the year of the Fire Horse! As I get ready to celebrate Lunar New Year (Tet for my Vietnamese family), I've been learning more about this zodiac sign, and seeing parallels in the forestry space. The sign of the horse is associated with energy, activity, and breakthrough, features I've attributed to the forestry community since I began working with the Forest Stewardship team.

It's so inspiring to see all of the work that has been, and continues to be done by my colleagues at UC ANR, forest landowners who have participated in Stewardship workshops, and outside collaborators. The forest stops for no one- and active management, education, and research at every level helps the community at large, forested or not. This edition of the newsletter is a roundup of exciting research, stories, and events that will give you the good energy needed to start the year off right.

Perhaps the most important part of celebrating Tet is the exchange of wishes for the new year. I wish you all a new year full of good change, exploration, long walks in the woods, and stewardship growth. As always, our inbox is open if you want a helping hand.

Warmly,
Grace Dean
Forest Stewardship Communications Specialist
gn dean@ucanr.edu

P.S: I also wish for you to get your site visit if you haven't yet! Contact Kim Ingram (kcingram@ucanr.edu) to schedule your site visit with an RPF, CRM, or Burn Boss.





Before you Buy Forestland: all resources now live!

The webinar and newsletter collaboration between UC ANR Forest Stewardship and the UC ANR Fire Network is for anyone curious about purchasing forestland.

The Before you Buy Forestland series is a collaboration between the UC ANR Forest Stewardship and UC ANR Fire Network teams. The 3-part webinar series covered the following aspects of owning forestland: forest stewardship, living with fire, and financial practicalities. Each webinar also has an accompanying newsletter and curated list of resources.

Forward the Before you Buy resources to the person in your life who is curious about stewardship!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Get to know Forest Stewardship's new Community Education Specialist: Jannike Allen

Jannike will be taking a lead role in facilitating Forest Stewardship workshop sessions and communicating with workshop attendees.



Jannike (pronounced YON-ick-a) has worked on land stewardship and fire resilience issues from multiple angles, including researching the impacts of prescribed fire in maritime chaparral and coastal prairie ecosystems, helping carry out prescribed burns in coastal Northern California, and implementing wildfire mitigation programs in the Sierra Nevada foothills. She grew up in California and has also lived in the Pacific Northwest. For fun, she enjoys playing percussion, getting outside, and spending time with friends and family. Get to know Jannike with our Q&A!

Q: When you were first learning about forestry, what is an 'a-ha!' moment that you still think about today?

A: In high school, I had an environmental science teacher who held up two photos of a forest: one was really dense, had a lot of ladder fuels, and the other was more park like. She asked our class which forest looked healthier to us, and of course we thought the forest with more green in it was the healthier one. That opened up a discussion about open stands and resiliency, and was a shifting point for me in how I look at forests. Once you see it, you can't unsee it.

Q: What's your favorite tool to have on a prescribed burn?

A: It's a little hard to pick, but what I've used a lot recently is a belt weather kit. It has a bunch of supplies that can help you get weather data manually, which is important information to have on a burn.

Q: Working in forestry can mean long drives, so what's on your road trip playlist?

A: I'll usually listen to audiobooks or music. I was recently in New Orleans for the Association for Fire Ecology conference, so right now I'm listening to Interview with a Vampire.

Q: Working in forestry can also mean being prepared for when hunger strikes in the field. What snacks do you like to have on hand?

A: I take field snacks verrrry seriously. Second breakfast is key! I'll usually bring some fruit, a bar, and a snack bread like banana bread for that. Lunches are usually curries, and then I may bring something else if it's a long day.

Forest Stewardship Story Map reaches 35 interviewees

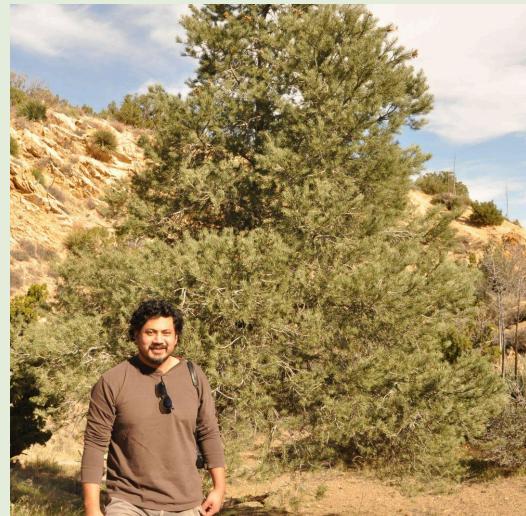
Read our 2025 interviews with landowners, professionals, and a college student on ArcGIS.

The Forest Stewardship Story Map has a new look for 2026, and some new stories to match. Here's a snippet from our interview with Los Angeles landowner Esau:

"The parcel is 10 acres in Los Angeles county, and has pinyon pines, junipers, and scrub oaks. People drive past this area all the time, and from the freeway it just looks like shrubbery. But when you're standing here amongst it, it's pretty neat. The more I learn about this ecosystem and the trees here, the more I fall in love with it.

The trees here aren't massive, but they're resilient. It's a harsh environment here: it gets windy, hot, really dry, and sometimes it snows. Not everything can survive here, but some of these trees are 70 years old.

Working with the land is something that always attracted me. I grew up in South Central Los Angeles, which is a totally urban environment, but my family comes



from El Salvador and always had a tradition of land stewardship. I bought the property when my son was born, and he'll come out here and my nephews will be out here, and I feel like I'm reliving my childhood in that sense because we're doing all the things I wish I grew up doing."

[VISIT THE STORY MAP](#)



Applications open for Forestry Institute for Teachers: 2026 Summer Sessions and FIT Focus

K-12 educators are encouraged to attend a summer or spring session of in-person forestry learning..

This spring, the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) is offering a special El Dorado FIT-Focus March 13-15, Topic: Fire Ecology of the Sierras.

Explore the fire ecology of the Sierra Nevada range and how land stewards implement beneficial fire across the landscape and wildland-urban interface! Natural resource professionals and credentialed instructors will guide you through a suite of classroom and field experiences to understand the processes that shape fire's behavior and impact at different scales.

Additionally, applications are still open for FIT summer sessions. FIT offers four immersive professional learning experiences designed for all PreK-12 educators (formal and nonformal). At each session FIT's team of credentialed instructors and local experts weave environmental education with unique forestry field experiences to explore California's forest resources and expand your teaching practice.

Registration (\$150) is all-inclusive, covering on-site accommodations, meals and resources; you just have to get there! Deepen your content knowledge, explore new environmental education strategies, and connect with like-minded peers at FIT this summer.

Participants receive: 50 hours of interdisciplinary instruction aligned with state teaching standards, certifications in Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Project Water Education Today (WET), and eligibility for a \$200 stipend and 3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Summer Session Schedule:

- El Dorado FIT - June 14-20
- Tuolumne FIT - June 22-28
- Humboldt FIT - July 11-17
- Shasta FIT - July 19-25

[LEARN MORE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE Post-Fire Webinar: Post-Fire Resilience in Giant Sequoias

When: Thursday February 12, 6-7:30 PM

Where: Zoom

[**REGISTER**](#)

FREE Forest Stewardship Webinar: Biochar applications for forest landowners

When: Wednesday February 25, 6-7:30 PM

Where: Zoom

[**REGISTER**](#)

UC ANR Fire Network: Pile Burning Workshop

When: March 1

Where: Occidental, CA

Cost: \$10

[**REGISTER**](#)

FREE Forest Stewardship Field Day: Biochar as a management tool for forest landowners

When: Two sessions are being offered (Friday March 13, Saturday March 14, 9:30 AM-1:30 PM)

Where: Tuolumne County

[**REGISTER**](#)

California Tree School: Butte (focus on reforestation, good fire, plant ID)

When: Saturday April 18, 8 AM-5:30 PM

Where: Paradise High School, Paradise CA

Cost: \$70, scholarships available by request.

[**REGISTER**](#)

California Tree School: Humboldt (focus on wood products, redwoods, tribal forestry)

When: Saturday May 2, 8 AM-5:30 PM

Where: College of the Redwoods, Eureka CA

Cost: \$70, scholarships available by request.

[**REGISTER**](#)

PUBLICATION STATION

Research to ponder and use, from UC researchers and outside collaborators.

Being there: effectiveness of a 360-degree virtual tour for increasing understanding of forest treatments for fire hazard reduction in California, USA

From the abstract: "...expanding the pace and scale of forest management is hampered, in part, by limited understanding and exposure of interested parties and the public to fuel reduction treatments."

Virtual tour applications provide an opportunity to extend tours of treatment demonstration areas to anyone with a computer and internet connection."

READ

DIY mass timber: development of low-tech and low-cost structural mass timber manufacturing to support forest utilization in California

Paul Mayencourt, Jitske Swagemakers

From the abstract: "The paper presents a new small-scale low-cost DIY strategy for developing mass timber manufacturing capacity in places with no prior established industries and limited skilled workforce."

The research focuses on low-hanging fruit wood products, requiring limited initial investment such as Nail-Laminated Timber and Dowel-Laminated Timber."

READ

Reforestation Manual for California Conifers

Stewart, William; Satomi, Ricky; Baldwin, Herb; Sommarstrom, Sari; Staniford, Richard; Kocher, Susie; Webster, Jeff; Rynearson, Bob; Griffis, Teri; Lippitt, Laurie; Jopson, Thomas; Ritchie, Martin; Berrill, John-Pascal; Owen, Donald; Giusti, Gregory

From the abstract: "Reforestation practices for California's conifer forests have evolved greatly in the four decades since they were last documented. Experts in reforestation share their developments in the field and offer safe and effective practices for protecting California's vast array of conifers."

READ

Yosemite's Merced Grove of giant sequoias: critical restoration continues despite legal challenges

Kristen L. Shive, Garrett J. Dickman, and Scott L. Stephens

From the abstract: "...This restoration project and its associated court case demonstrate that when agencies follow the appropriate procedures for their circumstances, plan projects based on the best available science, and use that science to defend their work, they can prevail in the face of litigation."

With the staggering losses of large, ancient giant sequoias to severe wildfires in recent years, this restoration work is both urgent and essential."

READ

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