



Oak Woodland Resource Guide

Compiled by UC ANR Forest Stewardship

Stretching from San Diego to the Oregon border, California's oak woodlands are valued for their beauty and utility. This resource guide is a reference point for landowners and managers to get started with some of the resources available at UC ANR.

Take a moment to browse the online resources listed here, and if your questions remain, ask an expert at ucanr.edu/site/uc-oaks.

Forest Stewardship: White and Black Oak Management

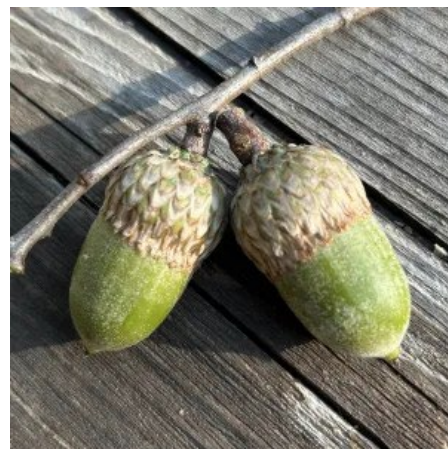
In response to the many landowners who want to learn about pre- and post-fire management of oak woodlands, our team developed a White and Black Oak educational newsletter and webinar.

Tips for management from the newsletter and webinar:

- **On thinning post-fire:** Thinning resprouts on your black oak helps the tree focus its resources on growth rather than resprouting. This activity is best done 3-6 years post-fire. You can either: 1) thin all resprouts and retain *only the central dominant stem* OR 2) retain about *three of the most dominant stems* for insurance purposes.
- **On protecting young oak seedlings:** Livestock and wildlife find seedlings to be a tasty snack! To protect your oak seedlings, choose the ones that are robust, and then use a tree shelter (wire or plastic) to protect the seedling. These increase survivorship up to 50%!
- **On restoring white and black oak stands:** Are your oaks competing with unwanted conifer neighbors? Both white and black oak species rely on frequent, low- to moderate severity fire to clear competing vegetation, including young conifers. By suppressing good fire from the landscape, conifers are allowed to encroach on deciduous oak stands, putting oak species at risk. Today, landowners have two regulatory pathways to remove conifers and free up space for oak health (see the back of this page for a comparison chart).



Landowners can reach out to their local UC ANR office or Resource Conservation District for management assistance and advice. Photo by Grace Dean, UC ANR.



Oregon white oak acorn. Photo from UC Oaks website.

Find the newsletter and webinar using the links below.

[White and Black Oak management](#) | Newsletter

[White and Black Oak management](#) | Webinar (1 hr 55 min)

Comparison of Oak Woodland Restoration Permitting Options

	Black and White Oak Woodland Management Special Prescription	Oak Woodland Exemption
Overview	Must retain 35 feet 2 of living white or black oak Conifers of all sizes can be removed No requirement to restock No acreage limit	Must retain 35 feet 2 of living white or black oak Less costly
Restrictions	Landowner must have a THP (timber harvest plan) or NTMP (non-industrial timber management plan)	Over 5 years, the harvest area cannot exceed 300 acres Cannot remove trees larger than 26 in at stump height for commercial purposes

UC Oaks Website

The UC Oaks website provides science-based information on the ecology and stewardship of California's oak woodlands. Visit the website to find:

- **ID and ecology information** for common oak species
- **Pest and disease information** (Gold spotted oak borer, Mediterranean oak borer, insect field guides, Sudden Oak Death)
- **Research and blog articles** from UC researchers on various topics (oak regeneration, cultural values, wildlife, policy issues, climatic factors, etc)
- And more!

Visit UC Oaks using this link: <https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-oaks>

Access the digital version of this resource guide at
<https://link.ucanr.edu/oakwoodlandguide>

