

Forest Stewardship Education Newsletter: February 2021

Upcoming 2021 Forest Stewardship Workshops

January 27th – April 13th

Location: Online and Big Sandy Rancheria, CA (Fresno County), Registration closed.

February 18th

Initial Site Visit Webinar

March 22nd – May 27th

Location: Online and Eureka, CA (Humboldt County), Registration now open.

April 21st – June 16th

Location: Online and San Bernardino County. Registration opening soon.

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

The Blodgett visit (field day) was indispensable for the "hands on" field training. – Workshop participant

I really enjoyed the field day, and felt very comfortable with the COVID 19 safety measures. – Workshop participant

Greetings from UC ANR

One of my favorite parts about the Forest Stewardship Workshops is the field day. There is nothing better than walking around in the woods, interacting with workshop participants, and learning skills that can help one better understand what one is actually seeing amongst the trees. Have you used your Biltmore stick recently?

We have tried our best to continue this important part of the workshop even when restricted by COVID. However, there are some things that are simply beyond our control, such as having to cancel the field day for the Mariposa cohort in November. We also know that sometimes 'life happens' and one cannot attend due to other obligations. To supplement the in-person field day, we have developed a four part video series on inventory tools and techniques which is the next best thing to actually being there!

This Forest Stewardship Newsletter is focused on providing information and resources to forest landowners on the importance and 'know how' of forest inventory. Happy cruising!

– Kim Ingram, Forest Stewardship Coordinator,
kcingram@ucanr.edu



What is cruising and why should I do it?

Cruising is the inventory process of systematically collecting data on forest resources within a given area, usually defined as plots. For forest landowners, having forest inventory information can help you make better stewardship decisions that support the overall goals identified in your management plans.

When cruising, you are gathering information on the composition and structure of your forest, and stand characteristics. You are taking tree measurements to quantify the trees per acre, basal area, the volume of each species, and the overall productivity of the site. As you cruise, also make note of non-timber resources and capture other data such as road, culvert or archaeological site locations.

Your Registered Professional Forester (RPF) will conduct a more thorough inventory when preparing for activities needing a permit, such as a timber harvest. However, forest landowners can conduct inventories to gain understanding of the condition of their forest and how it changes over time and/or through management activities.



Susie Kocher measuring the diameter of a tree with a diameter tape (or d-tape).

Relevant Online Resources for You!

The new four-part inventory video series can be found on the UC ANR YouTube Channel and includes:

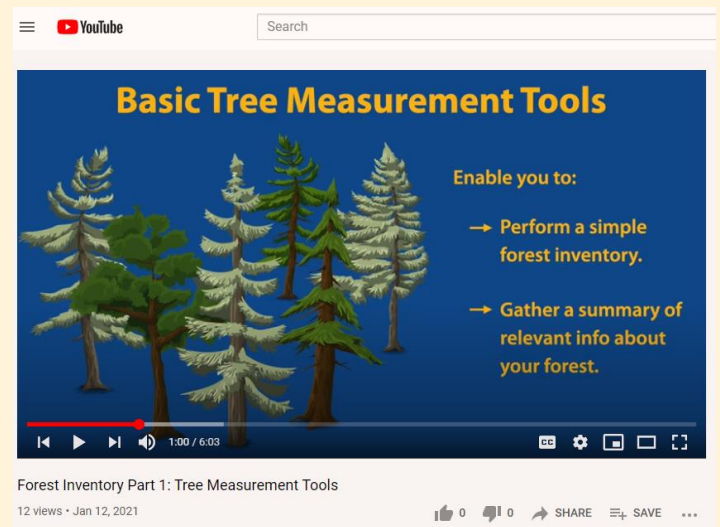
[Forest Inventory Part 1: Tree Measurement Tools](#) covering the usage of diameter tapes, Spencer logger's tapes and Biltmore sticks.

[Forest Inventory Part 2: Using a Clinometer](#) describes how to accurately measure tree height using a clinometer.

[Forest Inventory Part 3: Plot Establishment Tools](#) demonstrates how to use a compass and reel fiberglass tape to establish sampling plots.

[Forest Inventory Part 4: Plot Layout and Inventory System](#) includes a review of plot layout, the measurements and observations to note, and how sample data can represent your entire forest.

Read more about the videos by visiting the [UC ANR Green Blog](#).



Calculations you can use

Measuring 1-2% of your total acreage is good for a basic inventory.

of plots needed: total acres of land x decimal % cover desired x 10

Example: You have 25 acres and want 2% coverage by plots, (25 acres x 0.02) x 10 = 5 tenth acre plots are needed.

Once you've collected data on the number and size of your trees, you can calculate stand density (trees per acre).

Assuming the commonly used 0.1-acre plot....

Stand density (trees per acre): average number of trees per plot x 10 = trees per acre

Example: average of 10 trees per plot x 10 = your land has an average of 100 trees per acre

These simple equations can be used to quantify the density of different species or trees of different size classes.



Above: Susie Kocher using a fiberglass reel tape to measure out a plot. Left: using a Biltmore stick to measure diameter at breast height (dbh).

Diameter at breast height (DBH) is the standard height (4.5 feet above the ground) used when measuring trees using a d tape or Biltmore.

Reminder! Deadline for initial site visit is June 30, 2021!

If you were impacted by wildfire this year and need specific advice, or simply want to be prepared for the upcoming fire season, consider using your free initial site visit with an RPF. Please contact Kim Ingram at kcigram@ucanr.edu for more information and a list of RPFs who have participated in our workshop series.