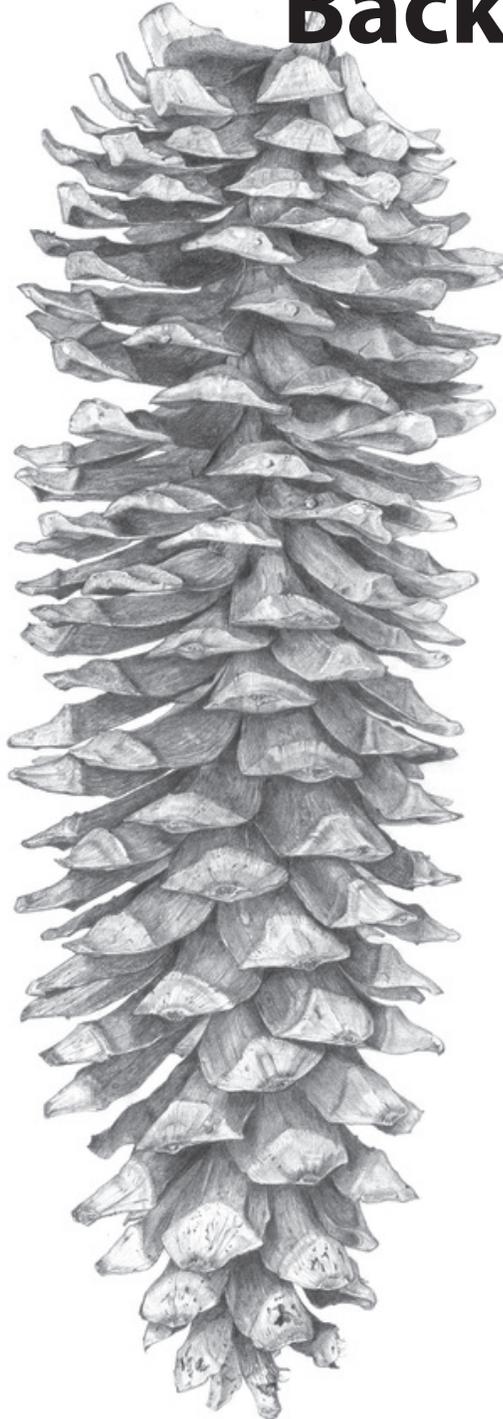




FORESTLAND STEWARDS

Back To Basics



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Cover Photo: Sarah Melling Studio



FORESTLAND
STEWARDS

Forestland Steward is a joint project of CAL FIRE, Placer County Resource Conservation District, UC Cooperative Extension, and USDA Forest Service to provide information on the stewardship of private forestlands in California.

California Forest Stewardship Program

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FSN Turns 25

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of *Forestland Steward*! We are grateful for the support of our readership and look forward to reporting on the successes, challenges, and lessons learned in forest management for another quarter-century.

We reached out to former Managing Editor, Laurie Litman, to discuss the evolution of the newsletter. Laurie was the pioneer editor of *Forestland Steward* for nearly 20 years. She is a thoughtful and engaging writer and brought a passion for California ecology to her work. (*The following has been edited and condensed for clarity.*)

How has the newsletter adapted over the past 25 years?

25 years is a long time, and these past 25 years have been a period of immense change. The first newsletter, Fall 1996, has an article convincing people that the Internet is a valuable tool for forest landowners and how to get started using it! We shifted from discussing individual forest holdings to ecosystems and watersheds. Forest management has both encouraged wildfire suppression on private lands and explored the use of managed fire for forest health. Most of all, the growing awareness of the threats from a changing climate means evaluating these topics and management techniques through a climate lens.

How have the challenges facing forest landowners in California changed?

We are entering uncertain times due to climate change. The plants and animals in current forest communities adapted together under a specific climate regime. As the climate changes, the individual tolerances of each species will determine where it can survive, creating novel associations. We can predict some of that, but there will likely be a lot of surprises. We can no longer use the past to predict the future. Forest landowners must remain vigilant, monitor their forests, follow the scientific literature, and use adaptive management in decision making.



Forestland Steward Fall 1996

A few of Laurie's favorite FSN issues are listed below. We encourage you to follow the links and revisit these classics:

Summer 2002: Encourage wildlife in your forest. I'm a biologist so really enjoyed putting this one together. Also, I thought it important to address the complexity of forest communities.

Spr/Sum 2007: Forests have a role in climate solutions. This was the first issue that really focused on climate change, which I believe is the greatest threat to California forests.

Summer 2009: Oaks. My favorite cover. I love that we included different types of forests with different management needs.

Summer 2012: Another climate-focused issue; this one held more depth, with excellent background and discussion about making management decisions despite uncertainty. This was my all-time favorite.



Forestry 101: What is an RPF?

Just as an architect can design and execute the construction of a home, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) can help assess, plan, and implement appropriate management of a forest. Protecting natural resources has long been a high priority in California. A series of environmental legislation passed in the 1970s created the institutional structure protecting ecological and cultural resources in forests today. Under this law, management of private lands requires review by an RPF before activities may begin. However, RPFs are more than just the signature on your permit. Licensed foresters also plan reforestation projects after wildfires, oversee forest inventories, assess land values, and more.

These individuals are responsible for writing prescriptions that ensure the health of a forest and account for its complexities based on location, biodiversity, and natural history. This may involve treatment for insects and damage, creating habitat for wildlife species, or implementing a combination of different fuels reduction techniques. As a California landowner, they are required for commercial forest management. If you are doing non-commercial work or fuels reduction, an RPF may prove helpful, but is not a requirement.

High Demand, Low Availability

Given the wide breadth of skills held by RPFs and the imminent threats to our forests, it should not be surprising that they are increasingly busy. Over the last decade, introduction of the forest carbon market and increasingly catastrophic wildfires have exacerbated the responsibilities of the profession. Many private forests operate with a sustained yield plan where a percentage of the growth is periodically removed. With every catastrophic wildfire, RPFs must deviate from this process to plan and implement salvage, site restoration, and reforestation of these burned acres. Further adding to this challenge is meeting the need to protect our forest communities with fire breaks and other treatments that reduce the severity of future fires. "The availability of qualified professional foresters is the foremost challenge when facing demands to increase the pace and scale of management," stated Ricky Satomi, RPF and UCCE Forestry Advisor in Shasta, Trinity, and Siskiyou Counties. "An aging workforce combined with growing demand for RPF expertise in planning and fire management roles severely limit their availability." With these issues and varied efforts, it can often be challenging to find an RPF to work on your property.

Finding Your Forester

Though RPFs may not be in great abundance throughout the state, a forester is worth the search. To find a forester near you, check with professional organizations and state lists. For example, both the Association of Consulting Foresters and the California Licensed Foresters Association provide a directory of members and many other helpful resources on their websites. CAL FIRE also maintains a list of licensed foresters throughout the state. Some Resource Conservation Districts may even have an RPF on staff for basic landowner assistance.

The CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Program also offers opportunities to consult with an RPF. Check out the CFIP webpage under "Contact a CFIP Forest Advisor" and reach out to your local Forestry Assistance Specialist for questions and guidance on forest health and management.

Remember that, as the landowner, you have invaluable knowledge of the history, nuance, and micro-climates on your property. In combination with the tangible and science-driven management strategies offered by a forester, you can ensure the long-term health of your land. Hiring an RPF will help you prepare a Forest Management Plan that meets your objectives and maintains the sustainability of your natural resources. To bring your plan to life, other qualified experts may be called on, such as a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) for harvesting trees or a Certified Pesticide Applicator to treat invasive species. For helpful advice finding the right expert for your needs, check out the "Forest Stewardship Series 24: Professional Assistance," published by the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Opportunities Abound

Regardless of whether you own forested land or just love walking in the woods, YOU can become a professional in forestry. Although obtaining a license is a lengthy process, it opens many doors for career options in California. An applicant is required to have 7 years of combined education and work experience and a passing score on the comprehensive written exam administered by the Professional Foresters Examining Committee. One of the more streamlined options for passing the exam is to earn a B.S. degree in Forestry from a Society of American Foresters (SAF) accredited university. Explore student resources on the CLFA website and find options for scholarships and program information.

Only Getting Better With Age: LAMRC Centennial Celebration

Although relying on natural regeneration from on-site seed sources is sometimes the best option to meet management objectives, disturbances such as stand-replacing wildfire or insect and disease infestations often make intervention necessary. Reforestation is a management strategy used to accelerate the development of forest structure, species composition, and canopy cover, but it also presents opportunities to manage genetic diversity as we experience less predictable weather conditions and stand-replacing wildfires. In addition to large-scale disturbances, natural soil seed banks are depleted due to land use change, fragmentation, and increasing development. Thus, seed banks and nurseries throughout the state are used to preserve native tree populations and strong genetic stock for reforestation efforts.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the L.A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC), a nursery and seed bank operated by CAL FIRE. LAMRC collects and processes cones used to grow seedlings in reforestation efforts on public and private lands throughout the state. To celebrate, *Forestland Steward* is featuring an article series highlighting the complexities associated with the collection, processing, and distribution efforts of the seeds that constitute our forests.

Basic Biology

*All reforestation starts with a seed. But what makes a healthy seed?
What are the signs that a tree has a cone crop worthy of collection?*

Cone crops are cyclical, highly localized, and vary by species. Every spring, conifers form and develop seeds, however there are differences in the percentage of reproductive buds. Conifers are differentiated into two groups based on their reproductive status. One-year species, including Douglas-fir, true firs, incense cedars, and coast redwoods, have cones that mature the same year that pollination occurs. For species on a two-year cycle, the cones mature in the fall of the year following pollination, such as pines and giant sequoia.

Regardless of their reproductive cycle, the juvenile periods of trees vary widely. For example, collectors may observe viable cones in ponderosa pines in 20 year old trees, but it takes at least 40 years to reach sexual maturity for true firs and 80 years for coast redwood. Most of California's native conifers are slow growing, long-lived trees. Though they may begin flowering at about 10 or 15 years old, the crop production at this youthful stage is limited.

LAMRC Nursery circa 1920; Source: CAL FIRE



Cone Crops: Healthy vs Unhealthy

“Factors such as overall forest health are extremely important when it comes to seed collection because we want to collect seeds from phenotypically and genetically superior trees,” stated Jessica Huang, CAL FIRE Seed Bank Manager. Superior seed quality is the driving force behind cone survey protocols and collection processes. The collection of quality, local seed ensures the growth of vigorous site-adapted seedlings that retain viability longer, have higher storage capability, and are less susceptible to handling damage. But what makes an adequate cone crop?

Not surprisingly, weather and tree nutrition are the first steps toward the development of a healthy crop. However, during pollination, many external pressures such as drought, frost, lack of wind, or too much rain can cause crop failure. Even if a bud is successfully fertilized and a cone begins to develop, insects, diseases, squirrels, birds, and people can destroy it. Most trees do not produce a collectable crop every year. “Cone crops worth collecting can vary from as few as 3 years to as many as 7 years or longer,” Huang continued. In fact, in some particularly tough years, no cones are produced at all. The term periodicity is used to define the amount of time between collectable cone crops and is one of the primary limiting factors for the seed bank. Foresters conduct cone surveys on developing juvenile cones to determine quality by filled seed count and insect activity. When selecting cones for timber production, equally important are the attributes or genetics of the individual trees. The goal is to find cone trees that are most likely to have desirable characteristics transferred to their seed and have a good likelihood of thriving in the planted sites. Cone collectors will be looking for seed trees that have a good form and enough seed to make the collection process worthwhile. Foresters look for the dominant or co-dominant species in the stand. The tree should be windfirm with fast growth rates, and a full, compact crown. Collection candidates must be free from disease, insects, or obvious defects such as spiral grain, fluting, forking, and epicormic shoots.

In the Face of Uncertainty

“Unfortunately, collection locations and opportunities are decreasing from factors such as land use change or poor cone crop quality,” Huang noted. “Thus, LAMRC has put tremendous effort into partnering with outside forestry agencies and organizations to bolster our surveying and collection capabilities.”

Imperfect weather conditions and strict collection parameters make cone collection an uncertain game. Yet the seed bank has an ever-important role in contributing to the rehabilitation and gene-banking of California’s forests. CAL FIRE is partnering with research scientists and universities to ask important questions and develop creative, data-driven solutions to ensure seed needs are met.



Skilled climbing arborists are hired to collect healthy cones for processing at the L.A. Moran Reforestation Center. Source: CAL FIRE

Did You Know...

Only a handful of nurseries throughout the state work directly with small private landowners. If you are interested in ordering seedlings for a reforestation project, LAMRC or the USFS Placerville Nursery are great places to start.

If you are interested in ordering seedlings from LAMRC, fill out the interest form on their website and staff will follow up with you to discuss the details. If you are interested in the USFS and El Dorado RCD seedling partnership program, learn more at their Seedling Program webpage.

Got Crop?

Staff at LAMRC are actively seeking collection sites with healthy cone crops. If you have a developing cone crop on your property that may be a good candidate for collection, contact the representatives listed below to ask questions and report your observations.

Jessica Huang, Seed Bank Manager
(530) 565-6506

Denia Troxell, Assistant Seed Bank Manager
(530) 759-3247

Tax Law Fundamentals

Guest Author: Larry Camp

About the Author: To say that Larry Camp understands the financial side of forestry would be an understatement. As a retired IRS forester, forest landowner, and licensed RPF, Camp has a vast knowledge of the nuances of tax law and the fiscal consequences of land management decisions. In the article below, he demystifies some of the common tax-related concepts that California forest landowners will encounter. Due to space limits, this piece cannot capture all the details associated with tax law and should not be construed as rendering legal or accounting services.

The Basics of Basis

Basis is the accounting term for what something costs. Though simple in concept, the term can become complex when applied to forest property. From a buyer's perspective, the total price is often the highest priority. But for accounting purposes, the value of the land, the timber on the land, and any infrastructure such as roads or fencing are also critical factors since they can be subject to different tax treatment. The status or purpose of one's ownership will also affect how basis affects tax liability. For example, if the property is owned for investment or operated as a business, the purchase price should be allocated into asset groups, such as land, timber, or equipment. If your forest is for personal use, such as a home site with a small forest plot, basis can often be treated as a single lump sum because it is not eligible for many business deductions.

Calculating Basis

As indicated above, basis is the purchase price of a group of assets. If purchase records are not available or are unknown, basis can be approximated using sales of comparable properties (i.e. land with similar productivity, or timber volume and value from the same time as the purchase). The values are then allocated to the appropriate asset classes. The cost of assets such as roads, culverts, or equipment can be recovered over time using depreciation based on tax accounting regulations. By contrast, land (bare dirt) is not a depreciable asset and cost can only be recovered when the property is sold. When improvements are added or depreciation is deducted, the original basis is adjusted to reflect these changes and the result is termed adjusted basis. However, if the individual acquired a property at less than indicated market value, the value must be reduced across all asset classes to equal the actual purchase price.

The cost allocated to timber can also be recovered over time through depletion (similar in concept to depreciation) when it is harvested. However, the process of determining timber basis is typically more complex because timber types can be divided into subclasses, including reproduction (seedlings), pre-merchantable timber (typically trees more than 3 years old and less than 12 inches in diameter), and merchantable timber. Each of these classes has a different value that needs to be kept separate for tax purposes. However, the value within these classes changes over time. As trees grow, value from the reproduction account is transferred to the pre-merchantable account. Similarly, value from the pre-merchantable account is transferred to the merchantable account as the smaller trees age and become timber available for harvest. If the basis for timber was not determined at the time of purchase, it can be calculated later using comparable sales and working with a licensed forester to estimate volume based on historic growth rates. It is important to note that natural regeneration that occurs after purchasing a property has no value in determining basis because those trees were absent at the time of the purchase.

More to Learn

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources interviewed Larry Camp in June 2020. If you want more tax-related information and advice, check out the Q&A: Important Tax Tips For Forest Landowners.

Casualty Losses

In the past, casualty losses were permitted under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) §165 for sudden and unexpected events such as fires or windstorms. However, in 2017, federal law changed substantially. So today, deductions for casualty losses are not permitted unless the property is located within a Presidentially Declared Disaster Area. Most of the large fires in 2020 were declared Disaster Areas, though sometimes this may result in unequal treatment of forested properties. For example, if a property was burned in a smaller fire or in an area outside of a declared disaster zone, the owner may not be able to claim a federal casualty loss. But if the property is managed as a trade or business, it may still be possible to recognize a loss from a fire as a business loss even if it is outside of a declared disaster area for federal tax purposes. The loss would be limited to the adjusted basis for improvements and timber but not land. Currently, the California Revenue and Tax (R&T) code has not been changed to reflect changes in the IRC. Thus, if a property does not meet the federal statutory requirements, a casualty loss may be claimed on a California state income tax return, but not on a federal return.

Calculating Casualty Loss

When calculating the amount of a loss, the IRC requires that it is the lower of adjusted basis (excluding land) or the change in Fair Market Value at the time of the event (e.g. a wildfire). Simply put, one cannot claim a casualty loss for a value greater than what was paid for an asset. This means that if your family has owned the forest for several decades or you have acquired the property as a gift, there is likely very low or no basis due to past harvests. Thus, a casualty loss may be very small and not worth the cost to determine. Where basis is low and salvage harvest is feasible, one may be able to defer taxes using IRC §1033, Involuntary Conversion. Discuss this with your tax advisor.

In contrast to losses from wildfire, landowners should be aware that even as insect activity increases in recent years due to warmer winters and drought conditions, the loss of trees due to insect attack or drought are generally not considered deductible casualty losses under federal or California tax purposes based on litigation and IRS Revenue Rulings.

To learn more about some of the issues that were discussed, visit the National Timber Tax Website and download the Forest Landowners' Guide to the Federal Income Tax.

Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan

This past January, following one of the most devastating wildfire seasons in California's recorded history, Governor Gavin Newsom's Forest Management Task Force (FMTF) published the Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan. This comprehensive document offers guidance for reducing wildfire risk in vulnerable communities, improving the health of forests and wildlands, and accelerating actions to combat climate change. The developments outlined in the action plan align with a proposed \$1 billion investment from the Governor's annual budget focused on prioritizing fuels management, economic viability, and community health and safety.

Family-owned forests make up about 20% of California's forestlands. This translates to about 7 million acres; of which, nearly 90% is comprised of parcels no more than 50 acres in size. Thus, the FMTF acknowledges the value of small, non-industrial forest landowners for achieving state-wide management goals and success. The strategies identified in the Action Plan also align with important updates to policy and legislation. Landowners should remain vigilant as defensible space requirements become stricter, though CAL FIRE will conduct outreach initiatives to guide residents through the changes as implementation progresses. For example, one such change includes stricter defensible space requirements. In accordance with AB 3074, a five-foot "ember-resistant zone" around homes will be required. Stay up to date on the expansion of assistance programs outlined in the Action Plan including defensible space program assistance for elderly and low-income residents, emergency relief funding after fire, and cost-share and technical assistance programs. This document represents an exciting shift in California's forest management tactics and importantly, is paired with funding sources to tackle some of the state's critical challenges with fuels and fire.

Partner Highlight: UCCE Hosts Successful Forest Stewardship Workshop

In response to recommendations from the Governor's Forest Management Task Force (FMTF), the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) developed the Forest Stewardship Education Initiative. With funding from CAL FIRE, UC ANR worked with partners to develop robust tools to help private landowners make sustainable and economically viable land management decisions.

"CAL FIRE greatly values our partners and private forestland managers, and this project represents an excellent example of how applied education can expand the quality and extent of forest management on California's private forestlands," noted Stewart McMorrow, Deputy Chief of Forestry Assistance at CAL FIRE.

Within the first year of implementation, the Forest Stewardship Education Initiative held seven workshops and hosted more than 150 participants from throughout the state. Despite the statewide shutdown in April, Susie Kocher, Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor, and Kim Ingram, Forest Stewardship Education Coordinator, quickly adapted their curriculum to a hybrid format including 8 weeks of online content plus an in-person field day.

Though the target audience is private forest landowners, participants representing non-profit organizations, fire safe councils, tribes, and parks are welcome to attend. Participants are given the tools and knowledge to begin their forest management plan, with assistance drafting site history, maps, and management goals and objectives. RPFs provide guidance, creating helpful opportunities to network with local experts. Hands-on activities at the in-person workshops help to solidify important field skills such as using mobile mapping applications and forest mensuration tools. Find out more about registration and contact information at the Forest Stewardship Workshop webpage. Upcoming workshops are dependent on funding. Past workshop materials are listed on the Forest and Outreach webpage.



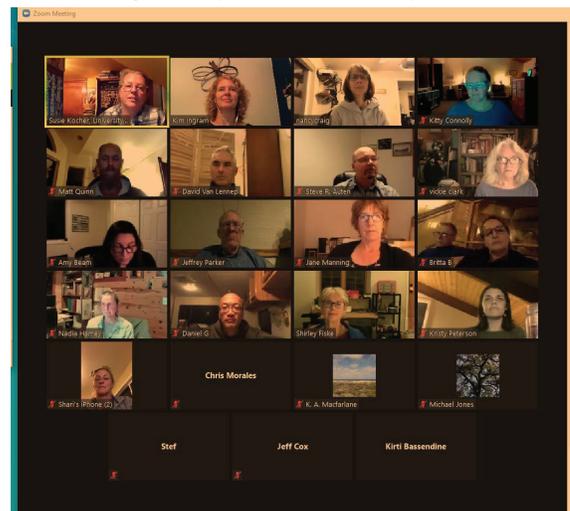
Participants measure the diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) of trees during the field portion of the workshop. Source: UCCE

The Critics are Raving...

"I feel much clearer on the steps to make a forest management plan, what I can do myself, and what we need to hire a professional for."

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

"Workshop is great, good technical information, making local contacts is extremely important. So, it was great to see so many experts."



COVID19 presented many challenges, but also created opportunities for new learning platforms. Source: UCCE

Land Management Funding & Cost-Share Resources

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>FUNDING AGENCY</u>	<u>ELIGIBILITY</u>	<u>PROGRAM DETAILS</u>	<u>COST SHARE (%)</u>
<u>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</u>	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)	All landowners	Farm Bill funding for technical and financial assistance for implementation of conservation practices	Up to 75% (average ~50%)
<u>California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)</u>	CAL FIRE	Landowners must own 20 – 5,000 acres of forestland (supports 10% or more tree cover, including oaks)	Technical and financial assistance for forest improvement practices	Up to 75% of project costs; A 90% cost-share rate may apply under certain circumstances
<u>My Sierra Woods*</u>	American Forest Foundation (AFF)	Must be in Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Butte, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, or Placer Counties	Fuels reduction and reforestation	Financial assistance is designed to complement existing resources (e.g. CFIP/EQIP)
<u>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)</u>	USDA	All landowners; Long-term contracts (10 – 15 years)	Financial support for planting trees or creating wildlife habitat on environmentally sensitive lands	Offers annual rental payments for the land and up to 50% of the landowner's costs
<u>CRP Forest Management Incentives (FMI)</u>	USDA	All landowners EXCEPT those in the last 2 years of their CRP contract	CRP funds specifically allocated to forestlands. Incentivizes fuels reduction and thinning practices	Up to 75% (average ~50%)
<u>The Partners For Fish And Wildlife Program</u>	USFWS	All private landowners interested in restoring wildlife habitat on their land	Priority goes to projects that provide habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered species	1:1 match (can include in-kind services); up to 25K
<u>Community Grants</u>	Fire Safe Council	Dependent on funding	Many communities apply for funding as a group, usually through their local Fire Safe Council	n/a

*Due to high demand, AFF is not accepting Community Assistance Program (CAP) applications until 2022.

Contact the appropriate local agency office for more information on the listed programs.

Backyard Pollinator Conservation

Protect & Steward

Diverse pollinator populations throughout the state have been in serious decline for decades. Depending on where you live, you can provide nectar-rich flowers, host plants, or habitat sources for monarchs and other pollinators.

Follow appropriate guidelines to find plant food sources and host plants that are native to your region. For guidance, check out publications by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

The Basics

While different pollinators may have specific needs to support each stage of their lifecycle, they all need high-quality habitat that provides an abundance of flowers, shelter and nesting sites, and protection from pesticides.



Food in the form of abundant flowering plants that provide access to pollen and nectar throughout the growing season



Access to **shelter and nesting sites** including host plants for butterflies, pithy-stems and dead wood for cavity-nesting bees, and bare earth for ground-nesting bees



Protection from pesticides which kill non-target insects and degrade habitat by removing or contaminating flowering plants



Advocates who are willing to make changes in their own landscape, but also teach others and spread the word to encourage pollinator-friendly practices in their community

Photo Source: Xerces Society/Eric Lee-Mäder; Graphic Source: Xerces Society

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CAL FIRE

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stewart.mcmorrow@fire.ca.gov

CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialists (FAS)

Find the FAS for your county:
<https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/california-forest-improvement-program-cfip/>

Guy Anderson (Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin (East), San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus (East), Tulare, Ventura); 559-243-4109

Topher Byrd (Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin (West), Santa Clara, Stanislaus (West)); 408-499-4255

Mary Bourriague (Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Tahoe Basin, Yuba); 916-718-6258

Shane Larsen (Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity); 530-226-8940

Dave Derby (Butte); 530-872-6334

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Dale Meese (Del Norte, Humboldt); 530-226-8941

Dawn Pederson (Colusa); 530-528-5199

Meghan Reeves (Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo); 707-888-7331

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)

916-457-7904; staff@carcd.org

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Chris Zimny, State Forester; 530-792-5655;
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USDA Forest Service

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Virtual Events Calendar

Distance Learning Resources

Details: This UC California Naturalist online portal includes resources across multiple topical interests including botany, entomology, community science, wildlife, and more. Most are either explicitly teacher or adult-focused, or can be adapted to an adult audience.

Contact: Resources available online at the following link:

http://calnat.ucanr.edu/distance_ed/#a

California Oak Health Online Workshop

Details: Oak enthusiasts, landowners, natural resource managers, and foresters will enjoy a series of virtual presentations discussing the challenges faced by CA oak woodlands.

Contact: Visit the UC Extension website to find the recordings: <http://ucanr.edu/OakHealth>

Xerces Society Webinars

Details: The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation offers webinars that cover a suite of topics on conservation, pollinators, and stewardship from coast to coast.

Contact: Visit and subscribe to the Xerces Society Youtube Channel to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAiPLPJuySOgn6CbjkOxqLQ>

Ongoing: Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Writing Workshops

Details: Designed to help build the capacity of organizations that serve the Sierra Nevada Region. Workshops are now available as an online webinar.

Contact: To organize or attend a workshop, contact your SNC Area Representative, online at <https://bit.ly/2Mpg3pB>

Defensible Space Resources

With summer in full swing, check out these resources for advice on reducing wildfire risk including:

- Home Landscaping for Fire - UC ANR Publication 8228
- Fire Resistant Landscaping - CAL FIRE's fire-safe landscaping info
- Landscaping Tips to Defend Your Home from Wildfire - UC ANR Publication 8322



Find out how the Task Force is tackling forest health throughout the state by exploring their website or attending future meetings.

- 8/12/2021 - Sacramento (3:30 pm - 5 pm)
- 11/18/2021 - Southern California (1 pm - 4 pm)
- 2/17/2022 - Sacramento (3:30 pm - 5 pm)
- 5/19/2022 - North Coast (1 pm - 4 pm)
- 8/11/2022 - Sacramento (3:30 - 5 pm)
- 11/17/2022 - Sierra Nevada (1 pm - 4 pm)

How can Forestland Steward newsletter serve you?

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My suggestions are _____

Add me to the mailing list / Change my address:

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Organization _____

Address _____

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Fill out this box and send it to CAL FIRE, Forestry Assistance, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460. Fax: (916) 653-8957; email: Stewart.McMorrow@fire.ca.gov For address changes, please send this box or contact Stewart McMorrow via e-mail, standard mail, or fax. Be sure to reference Forestland Steward newsletter.

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Fire as a Tool

Fire has long been an important management tool in California. 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. Ranchers also used fire to maintain habitat for wildlife and domestic livestock, and in more recent decades, its uses have grown to include fuels reduction, invasive species control, and ecological restoration. Prescribed fire, or the use of fire under predetermined conditions to achieve specific objectives, is now well-recognized as one of the most versatile and cost-effective tools available, with utility for many different kinds of California land managers, from private ranchers and forestland owners to tribes to staff on national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges.



Learn about prescribed fire at UC Cooperative Extension's "Fire in California" webpage