



## **Woodward joins UCCE as Forestry Advisor for Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties**

Brian Woodward, PhD, joined University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) on November 6th as the Area Forest Advisor for Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties. Woodward grew up in the oak woodlands of Lake County, CA and is excited to work collaboratively to enhance forest resilience in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Woodward's specialties include CA coast range forests and management, disturbance and fire ecology, forest monitoring, and spatial analysis.

In his capacity as UCCE Forestry Advisor, Woodward will engage with a diverse network in the Santa Cruz Mountains—including forest managers, private and public property owners, industry, researchers, and community members—to foster collaboration and serve as a resource to all seeking information related to forest management, forest ecology, and related forestry topics in the Santa Cruz Mountains region. His key responsibilities include conducting applied research, spearheading outreach and education programs, and advocating for collaborative, science-based forest management strategies that deliver ecological, economic, and social benefits to the region.

Woodward earned his PhD in Ecology from Colorado State University, where he explored mixed-severity fire impacts on coast redwood forests, and an MS in Forest Sciences, where he studied environmental factors and spatial patterns of bark beetle outbreaks. Prior to UCCE, he worked as a land manager and research ecologist on the Central Coast, advocating for proactive management of forest and grassland ecosystems. Woodward is an active participant of the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association and is also a permitted scientist for multiple threatened species.

Woodward is based in Watsonville in Santa Cruz County, and can be reached at [bdwoodward@ucanr.edu](mailto:bdwoodward@ucanr.edu) or by phone at 831-348-7305.