

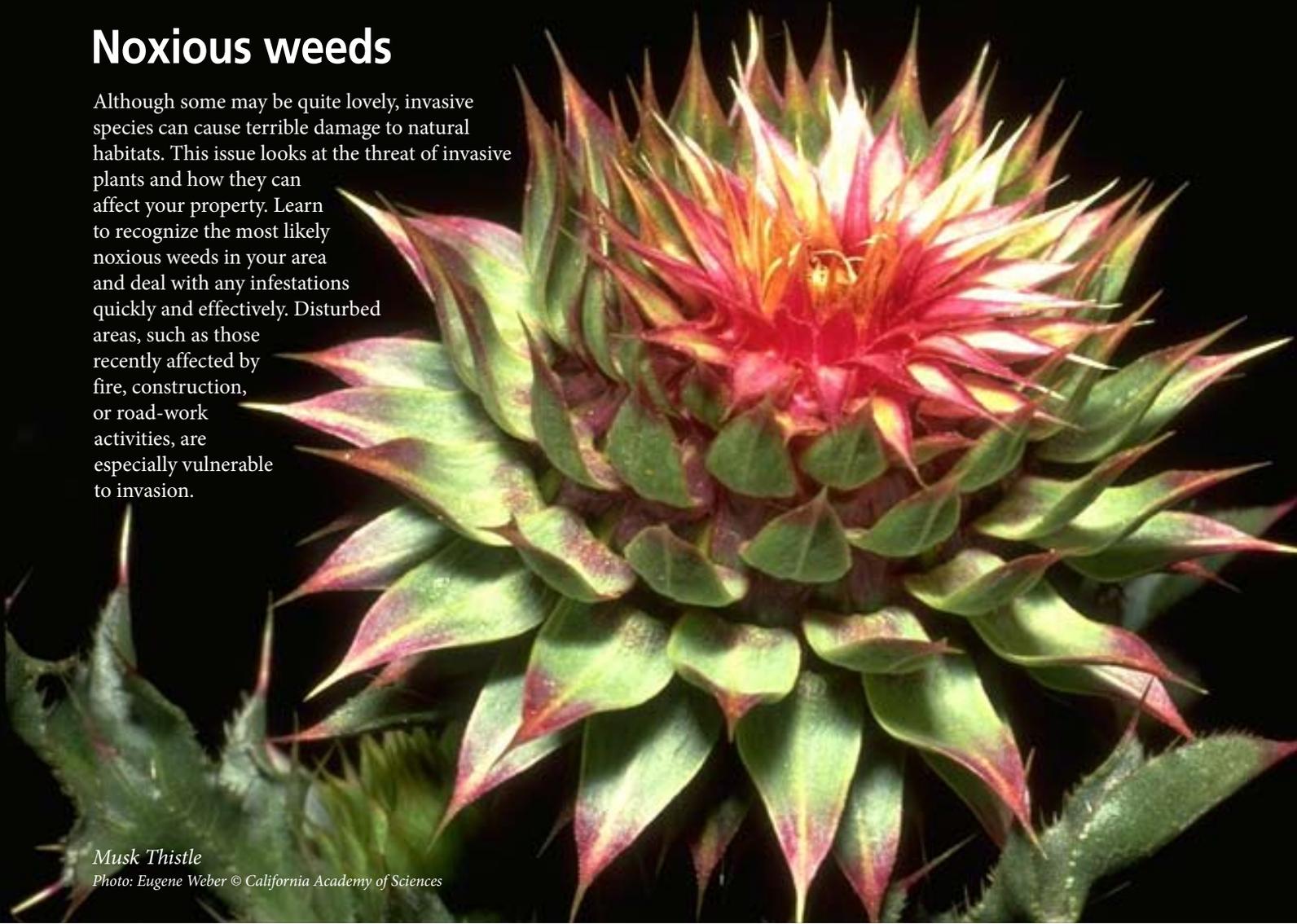


# FORESTLAND STEWARDS

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY FORESTS**

## Noxious weeds

Although some may be quite lovely, invasive species can cause terrible damage to natural habitats. This issue looks at the threat of invasive plants and how they can affect your property. Learn to recognize the most likely noxious weeds in your area and deal with any infestations quickly and effectively. Disturbed areas, such as those recently affected by fire, construction, or road-work activities, are especially vulnerable to invasion.



*Musk Thistle*

*Photo: Eugene Weber © California Academy of Sciences*

### Inside

- 2 Invasive Species
- 3 Create an IWM Plan
- 7 Taxes
- 9 Hazel Jackson
- 10 California's Forests
- 12 What's a FAS?

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## Invasives: not your everyday garden weed

Invasive species are more than just garden pests. They can profoundly affect, and irreversibly damage, natural habitats.

They do this in a number of ways. Some species exclude native plants by being better competitors—they are more aggressive, can get in first, and multiply quickly. Some have toxins that adversely affect other plants. Others actually change the chemistry of the soil, making it less hospitable to natives.

In addition, invasive species may increase flammability of the landscape, increasing fire frequency and severity of fires.

When the plant community changes, wildlife may be harmed as well. Many noxious weeds are unpalatable or even toxic to native animal species. When the habitat becomes intolerable, wildlife must move or die. Livestock and croplands also can be seriously impacted by invasives, causing significant economic losses.

Invasive species are a tremendous problem for all these reasons. So what can we do to control them? It's a complex issue but there is quite a bit that can be done, by both individuals and communities.

Invasive species come from all over the world. About half of the invasive species in California were introduced intentionally—as ornamentals, erosion control, or for other reasons. Others

came in accidentally, through contaminated crop seed, on machinery, and numerous other routes.

While the vast majority of exotic plants stay in their gardens or are otherwise benign in the environment, a small number, perhaps 10%, escape and become pests.

Without their native controls, such as diseases and predators, these plants can quickly wreak havoc on the environment.

Each pest species has a unique story, which includes its life history, effects on the environment, tolerance to various climate regimes, etc. Effective control must be individualized based on knowledge of the pest plant.

Using integrated weed management techniques, you can learn to manage invasive species on your property.



*Yellow star thistle infests more than 15 million acres in Calif.*

Photo: Peggy Greb, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

## What is Integrated Weed Management?

Weed management does not have a simple one-size-fits-all solution. No single management technique works best for all weed control situations.

Integrated Weed Management (IWM) is an approach in which the land manager carefully chooses and applies a combination of techniques (biological, mechanical, cultural, and chemical) to most effectively and efficiently control a particular weed species or infestation, with minimal adverse impacts to non-target plants and animals.

These management techniques should be selected and applied within the context of a complete management (or stewardship) plan to meet the landowner goals.

IWM differs from other weed management approaches in attempting to address the ultimate causes of weed infestation and

persistence, rather than simply focusing on controlling weeds. IWM is species-specific, tailored to exploit the weaknesses of a particular weed species, site specific, and designed to be practical with minimal risk to the organisms and their habitats.

IWM uses ecosystem management strategies that are practical, economical, and protective of public and environmental health. It seeks to combine control techniques that will interact to provide better control than any one alone.

Although IWM takes more work than simply spraying weeds, it is worth the effort in effectiveness, cost, and environmental impact. Over the long run, IWM should also lead to greater success in meeting management goals and objectives.

—adapted from *Creating An Integrated Weed Management Plan*

# Create an Integrated Weed Management Plan

Weed control is tricky. In order to be effective you need to be clear about what you're trying to accomplish, understand the biology of the species you plan to control, and decide on the best techniques to use on your unique property. It requires a plan.

Your weed control decisions should be made in the context of your larger goals for your property. To be most successful, a weed management plan should be part of your stewardship plan, which describes your personal goals and objectives for your property (for more information on stewardship planning and objectives, see the UC Forest Stewardship Series publication at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8248.pdf>).

An integrated weed management plan can feel like a big undertaking, but the State of Colorado has made the job easier with their handbook *Creating an Integrated Weed Management Plan*. This excellent resource can guide your plan development, and give you lots of examples and concepts to help in decisionmaking.

Follow the seven steps below to develop your integrated weed management plan (the handbook goes into much more detail for each step). Note that you will need to do some research and planning before taking action.

- 1. Describe your property.** Define the area to be managed and map it.
- 2. Inventory your property for weeds.** Know which invasive species are present and where they are. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) have created lists that rate noxious weeds (see resources p. 5).

**3. Formulate management goals and objectives.**

Make sure your weed management activities support your goals for the property. This will also help you accomplish your objectives in a more focused and efficient manner. (Note: goals are your vision for your property; objectives are specific, measurable, achievable, time- and location-specific actions to achieve those goals.)

**4. Set priorities for weed management.** Focus your control efforts on those species that can cause the most damage, and that are controllable.

**5. Select management actions.** Choose the best techniques available to accomplish your objectives. These include prevention, pulling, mowing and cutting, cultural controls (establishing desired plants), grazing, biological control agents, herbicides, and prescribed burning.

**6. Develop an integrated weed management plan.** Use multiple management actions for effective control. These should be species-specific, site-specific, effective and practical, with minimal risk to non-target plants, wildlife, and humans.

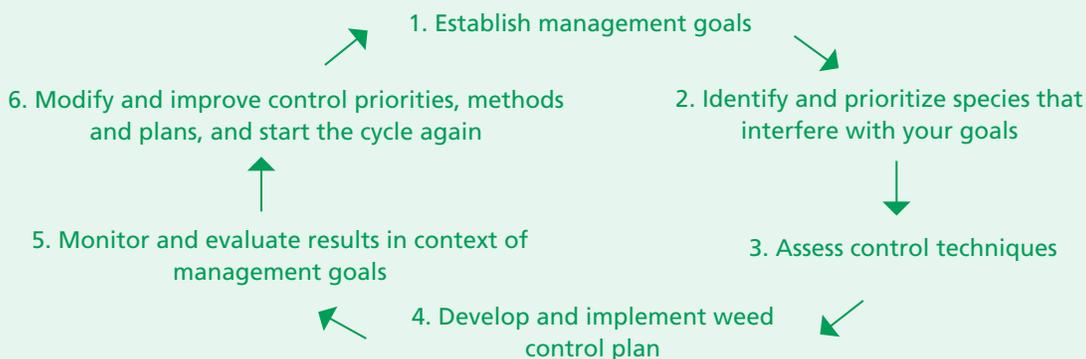
**7. Develop a monitoring plan.** Monitoring is essential to make sure your actions are working. Using adaptive management, a cyclical process that relies on feedback from monitoring to assess the success of management activities, you can evaluate and modify your activities as necessary (see flow chart below).

—adapted from *Creating An Integrated Weed Management Plan: A Handbook for Owners and Managers of Lands with Natural Values*. <http://parks.state.co.us/NaturalResources/CNAP/Publications/> (see Volume IV)

## Basic steps in developing an integrated weed management plan

- Describe the property
- Inventory the property for weeds
- Formulate management goals and objectives
- Set priorities for weed management
- Select management actions
- Develop an integrated weed management plan
- Develop a monitoring plan
- Control weeds!

## Adaptive Management of Weeds



As you prepare your weed management plan, remember these key points:

- **Ask for help.** Get to know the weed management experts in your area and take advantage of their knowledge and experience.
- **Try new things.** If a particular control program doesn't work, try something different. Monitoring will show you when it is necessary to use a new approach.
- **Work with your neighbors.** Two heads and wallets are greater than one. Weeds do not respect property or political boundaries. Cooperation can produce great rewards.
- **Don't let short-term success lull you into complacency.** Controlling weeds is an on-going responsibility that will not disappear even with initial success. Learn from your successes and become more effective in the future.
- **Persistence is critical.** Doing a little bit here and a little bit there every once in a while will not get results. Just think of all the weed seeds waiting for you to relax.

# Weed prevention best management practices

## Be Informed

- Become aware of the problem, and spread the word that noxious weeds are everyone's concern.
- Learn to identify high-priority weed species in the field so you can spot them while performing other activities. Learn to distinguish native species from weeds—especially native thistles.
- Report new infestations of known weeds and of those not previously found in the area to your County Agricultural Commissioner's Office or Weed Management Area group.

## Detect Weeds Early

- Periodically inspect roads to detect new weed establishment on disturbed rights-of-way.
- Inspect ditch and stream banks for noxious weeds whose seeds could be spread by running water.
- Inspect highly trafficked areas such as trailheads, parking areas, and other sites for weed infestations.
- Inspect areas heavily used by livestock and wildlife, such as riparian areas and salt licks.
- Be extra vigilant where gravel or fill material is brought in from elsewhere; weed seeds in this material can start new infestations, and bare soil provides an ideal environment for establishment.

## Limit dispersal

- Don't transport flowering plants that you cannot identify.
- Avoid transporting weed seeds stuck on clothing, gear, pets, or livestock. Place the seeds in a plastic bag or similar container and dispose of properly.
- Avoid driving in noxious weed infested areas. Inspect vehicles for weed seeds stuck in tire treads or mud on the vehicle. Don't clean infested vehicles in weed free areas!
- Inspect maintenance or heavy equipment for weed seeds. Require that equipment be cleaned to remove weed seeds before entry. Clean equipment (especially mowers!) used in weed infested areas before moving it to another area.
- Always use certified weed-free hay, straw, or mulch (<http://www.extendinc.com/weedfreefeed/county-ag.htm>).
- Confine livestock for a day or two in a small weed-free pasture before moving them to another weed-free pasture.
- Make sure that pack animals used in back country areas are fed hay certified weed-free. Before leaving an area, remove weed seeds from animals by brushing them thoroughly and cleaning hooves. Post signs to this effect to encourage visiting riders.
- If you find a small number of isolated noxious weeds with no flowers or seeds, pull the weeds and leave them where you found them to dry out. If flowers or seeds are present, place the weeds in a plastic bag or similar container and dispose of properly.



*Yellow starthistle hitchhikes a ride.*

Photo: Jerry Asher, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Bugwood.org

## Minimize disturbances

- Restrict travel to established roads and trails whenever possible.
- Don't drive through sensitive areas.
- Avoid leaving piles of exposed soil in construction areas. Cover with plastic and revegetate with native species as soon as possible.
- Avoid overgrazing, especially in sensitive areas.
- Move salt licks frequently and keep salt in a shallow container to minimize soil disturbance.

## Establish and maintain native plant communities

- Re-seed drastically disturbed areas with native plants immediately after the disturbance ends.
- Keep livestock out of re-seeded areas for at least one growing season to permit native plants to establish.
- Limit use of fertilizers when reseeded; their use may favor weeds over native perennial species.

—adapted from *Creating An Integrated Weed Management Plan: A Handbook for Owners and Managers of Lands with Natural Values* (see page 3).

# Attack your weeds like a wildfire

Controlling noxious weeds takes more than awareness—it requires constant vigilance and cooperative efforts.

If you want to concentrate your efforts where they will do the most good, consider this central principle of weed management: **Small infestations can be eradicated, large infestations can only be controlled.**

The most effective approach to weed management may seem counterintuitive. Instead of attacking large areas of weeds first it is better to **eradicate all small occurrences as quickly as possible.**

In many ways weed management can be compared to fighting wildfires, as shown in the table below.

	Fire	Weeds
<b>Build a fireline</b>	One of the first actions taken when fighting a large wildfire is to build a fireline to contain the outbreak within a certain boundary	Rather than a line on the ground, draw a line on a map delineating the current extent of large weed infestations. Commit to containing the infestation within this boundary.
<b>Eliminate spot fires</b>	Any fire that jumps the fireline has top priority and is eliminated as quickly as possible before it has the chance to spread. If allowed to spread, the results can be disastrous: fire fighters may be caught between two outbreaks, two large fires will have to be fought rather than one, and many more resources will be needed.	When weeds escape from the boundary you have drawn, they should become top priority. Think of small isolated occurrences as back country spotfires. If they are located early and attacked aggressively they can be eradicated before they spread; if ignored they will likely become so large they may never be eliminated entirely.
<b>Protect critical areas</b>	Critical areas include places where people or structures are located.	Critical areas include pristine natural sites, critical wildlife habitat, productive rangelands, and rare plant and animal habitat.
<b>Control the main outbreak</b>	Often an expensive investment in resources is required. Even with massive control efforts, large fires often are not stopped until the weather changes and rain or snow stops the fire.	Large infestations require long-term control efforts. Even with years of effort, these occurrences may never be completely eliminated. Unfortunately their seed banks may be huge, and their natural controls are rarely available. They may require some level of control forever

–from *Creating An Integrated Weed Management Plan: A Handbook for Owners and Managers of Lands with Natural Values*

Consider this central principle of weed management: **Small infestations can be eradicated, large infestations can only be controlled. In many ways weed management can be compared to fighting wildfires.**



Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

*English ivy can alter forest habitats.*



© Br. Alfred Brousseau, Saint Mary's College

*Pampasgrass continues to spread in coastal and inland areas.*

## Resources

Cal-IPC (California Invasive Plant Council) has a website with an immense amount of information, including an invasive plants inventory database, listings of invasive plants by category, descriptions of invasive plants and control methods, research, field courses and other activities. <http://www.cal-ipc.org/>

Weed Management Areas. There are Weed Management Areas in most parts of the state. Find your local contact at <http://www.cal-ipc.org/WMA/index.php>

CDFA (CA Department of Food & Agriculture) rates noxious weeds in California (Cal-IPC rates them separately). [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/noxweedinfo/noxweedinfo\\_hp.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/noxweedinfo/noxweedinfo_hp.htm)

UCCE Forest Stewardship Series 14: Exotic Pest Plants. Download the section at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8244.pdf>

## Know your enemies

**1. Canada Thistle** (*Cirsium arvense*) forms dense patches that may crowd out native vegetation.

**2. French Broom** (*Genista monspessulana*) is aggressive and forms dense stands that exclude native plants and wildlife.

**3. Gorse** (*Ulex europaeus*) invades burned and other disturbed areas.

**4. Eupatory** (*Ageratina adenophora*) occurs in creek beds and forest clearings.

**5. Himalayan Blackberry** (*Rubus armeniacus*) displaces native plants.

**6. Tree-of-Heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*) was planted as an ornamental that escaped into the wild.

**7. Cappy Ivy** (*Delairea odorata*) is a threat to riparian habitats.

These fine-looking plants are all invasive species in various parts of California. To learn more about these and other weeds you may encounter on your property, talk to your local FAS or NRCS advisor (see page 12), or visit the Cal-IPC website at <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/management/ipcw/categories.php>. *Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands* is another excellent reference.



Photo: Charles Webber © CA Academy of Sciences



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# Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for 2008

This article summarizes key Federal income tax provisions for forestland owners as of October 1, 2008. Consult your tax/legal professionals for advice on your specific tax situation.

## Timber Sales

If you have held standing timber for over 12 months, income from the sale or disposal of the timber generally qualifies as a long-term capital gain. This is an advantage since, among other reasons, long-term capital gains are taxed at lower rates than ordinary income and are not subject to self-employment tax. Short-term capital gains are taxed at the same rates as ordinary income. For most individual forestland owners, the tax rate for long-term capital gains is 15%. From 2008–2010, however, a special 0% rate applies to long-term capital gains which, when added to your ordinary income fit under the ceiling for the 15% bracket for ordinary income (\$32,550 for single taxpayers, \$65,100 for married taxpayers filing jointly).

*Example 1. In 2008 you sold 200 tons of pine timber out of a total of 1,000 tons on your entire tract for \$8,000. Your basis for the entire tract is \$10,000 and your sale expenses were \$900. Your depletion unit is \$10/ton (\$10,000 ÷ 1,000 tons). Your taxable gain is \$5,100 (\$8,000 – (200 tons x \$10/ton) – \$900).*

If you sell cut timber, only the gain from appreciation of the standing timber can qualify as a capital gain; the value added by cutting and hauling the timber is ordinary income. Further, you only can treat the value of the standing timber as a long-term capital gain if you have an IRC section 631(a) election in effect. Make the election on Form T, Part II.

If you receive payments from the sale or disposal of timber in 2 or more years, you can use the installment method to spread the income, and the tax on it, over the years you receive payments. Report an installment sale first on Form 6252, and then the amount can be carried over either to Form 4797 or Sched. D of Form 1040.

## Timber Management Expenses

If you manage your forestland for profit, you can deduct ordinary and necessary timber management expenses. These include timber cruises, fees paid a consulting forester, brush control, protecting the forest from fire, insects and disease, tools of short useful life, precommercial thinning, timber stand improvement, hired labor,

and mid-rotation fertilization. Costs associated with reforestation, including supervision by a forester and brush control, are subject to the reforestation deduction and amortization provisions (see below). Costs associated with a timber sale, including a pre-sale timber cruise, are deductible from the sale proceeds. Property taxes and interest paid also are currently deductible, but you may elect to capitalize them if doing so provides a tax benefit. Car and truck expense related to timber activities also may be deducted using either the standard mileage allowance (50.5 cents per mile for 2008) or the actual expenses (including depreciation if you own the vehicle).

## Forest Planting Cost

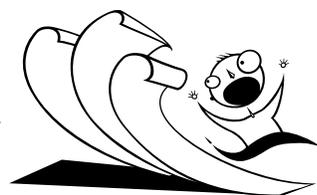
You can deduct outright the first \$10,000 per year (\$5,000 per year for married couples filing separately) of reforestation expenses per qualified timber property and amortize (deduct) any additional amount over 8 years. These provisions apply both to the cost of establishing a plantation and practices to encourage natural regeneration.

*Example 2. You planted pine seedlings in 2008 at a cost of \$6,000. You can deduct all \$6,000 outright because it is less than \$10,000. If the planting cost had been \$14,000, you only could deduct \$10,000 outright. But you could take an amortization deduction for 1/14th of the remaining \$4,000 (\$287) on your tax return for 2008, 1/7th (\$571) on your returns for 2009 through 2014, and the last 1/14th on your return for 2015. Elect to amortize and show your deductions on Form 4562, Part VI.*

## Depreciation and First-Year Expensing

You may take annual depreciation deductions to recover your investment (basis) in property such as timber equipment, machinery, buildings, bridges, culverts, temporary roads, fences or the surfaces of permanent roads you placed in service for timber production. Cars, light-duty trucks, logging equipment, and road building equipment generally are depreciated over a 5-year period. If you purchased property for your timber business in 2008, you can elect to expense up to \$250,000, subject to phase-out and taxable income limitations, up from \$128,000. In addition, for property purchased and placed in service in 2008, a bonus depreciation in the amount of 50% of the property costs is available.

*(continued next page)*



## Good news for cost-share recipients

Both Federal and State tax code allow for cost-share payments from the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP), and Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) to be excluded from gross income.

The alternative to exclusion is to include payments as income, and thereby qualify for any tax credits, amortization deductions, or adjustments available. Owners may choose to amortize costs over a 7-year period. A 10% tax credit may be claimed for planting and reforestation, even if no cost-share payments were received to a maximum of \$10,000 per year.

But check with your tax advisor for more information since tax law can change and individual situations vary.

Very few sections of the Internal Revenue Code are written specifically for timber. This means there is a considerable amount of interpretation involved. —from the Timber Tax Website <http://www.timbertax.org/>

Ag. Handbook #718, *Forest Landowners Guide to the Federal Income Tax* is a publication for nonindustrial private forest owners. Find it at [http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/2001/01jun19-Forest\\_Tax\\_Guide\\_31201.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/2001/01jun19-Forest_Tax_Guide_31201.pdf)

## Cost-share Payments

If you received a payment from a public cost-share program, you also should receive a Form 1099-G. If the program is approved under section 126, however, you can elect to exclude a calculated portion of the payment from your gross income. Approved federal programs include Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Several state programs also qualify.

The amount of a cost-share that can be excluded is the present value of the larger of \$2.50 per acre or 10% of the average annual income from the property over the last 3 years. Calculating present value requires an interest rate, but the IRS has provided little guidance as to what rate to use.

*Example 3. You received a \$3,000 cost-share from EQIP in 2008. Your only income from your 40-acre forestland in the last 3 years was \$9,000 from a 2006 timber sale. Using 7.56%, the 2008 Farm Credit Bank interest rate for your region, you can exclude all \$3,000 of the cost-share from your gross income:  $\$2.50 \times 40 \text{ acres} = \$100$  and  $10\% \times (\$9,000 \div 3) = \$300$ ; the present value of \$300, the larger of the two amounts, is  $\$300 \div 7.56\% = \$3,968$ , which is more than the cost-share. Attach a statement to your tax return showing the amount and nature of the cost-share payment and how you determined the excludable amount.*

## Timber Basis

Basis is a measure of your investment in timber. The total cost of acquiring purchased forestland should be allocated proportionately among capital accounts for the land, the timber, and other capital assets acquired with them. The fair market value of inherited forestland should be allocated similarly. This usually results in a step-up in basis because the fair market value of the property is higher than the decedent's basis.

Establishing your basis can lower your income tax by reducing the taxable amount of timber income. It also can help you recover reforestation costs or your investment in timber lost in a casualty or theft. If you did not establish your basis when you first acquired your timber, you can do it retroactively. You may need a professional forester to determine the volume and value of the timber at the time you acquired it. If you acquired your timber or forestland many years ago, you should compare the potential tax savings from

establishing your basis retroactively with the time and expense involved, to see whether it is financially worthwhile. Report your original basis in timber and land on Form T, Part I.

## Timber Casualty Losses

You can take a deduction for timber lost in a casualty—an event that is sudden, unexpected, and unusual, like a fire or ice storm. Start with the timber “block” that includes the damaged area (if you keep track of all your timber in one account, that is your timber block). Your deduction is the lesser of the decrease in value caused by the casualty or your basis in the timber block.

*Example 4. This year a fire destroyed timber on your 50-acre tract. Your forester estimates the timber was worth \$10,000 before the storm but only \$1,000 after, a \$9,000 decrease in value. Your basis in the timber is \$2,000. Your casualty loss deduction is \$2,000, the lesser of the two numbers.*

Keep in mind the IRS may verify your basis and damage estimate. Report a casualty loss on Form 4684, Section B; adjust your timber basis on Form T, Part II.

## Like-Kind Exchanges

Instead of selling appreciated timberland, paying tax on the income, and then acquiring replacement property using after-tax dollars, you can structure the transaction as a like-kind exchange (section 1031 exchange) so that gains are not currently taxed. To qualify, you must identify the replacement property within 45 days after closing on the relinquished property. The exchange must be completed by the earlier of the 180 days after the closing of the relinquished property or the due date (including extensions) of the tax return in the tax year of exchange.

## Conservation Easements

You can take a charitable contribution deduction for donation of a permanent conservation easement. The amount you can deduct for 2008 is limited to 50% of your adjusted gross income, but you can carry forward any unused amount to be deducted over the next 15 years. If you generate more than 50% of your total income from a timber business, your deduction is limited to 100% of your adjusted gross income.

—abridged from *Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2008 Tax Year* by Linda Wang and John L. Greene. Read the whole article at [www.timbertax.org/publications/FS/taxtips/TaxTips08.pdf](http://www.timbertax.org/publications/FS/taxtips/TaxTips08.pdf)

## Hazel Jackson leaves her mark on CLFA

After 23 years of dedicated service as the Executive Director for the California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA), Hazel Jackson has decided to retire.

Hazel Jackson is a special person. If you have had the pleasure and honor of working with her, as many have, then you undoubtedly realize what an understatement it is to just say that Hazel is special. If you don't know Hazel and haven't worked with her you'll need to read on to learn how true self sacrifice and commitment can be the tie that binds people of common vision together.

CLFA was formed by Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) in 1980 and represents Professional Foresters in a common cause of enhancing the role of the Professional Forester and the future of forestry in California. CLFA Foresters work across the full spectrum of the forestry profession including Industrial, Consulting, and Public Service.

In 1985, CLFA saw the need to hire an Executive Director to handle the ever-increasing complex issues facing RPFs. Hazel at the time was very active in Women in Timber and was the administrator for the Amador Water Company. Her husband, Pat Jackson (a RPF), was employed by American Forest Products, which gave Hazel insight into current forestry issues. Bob Maben (former CLFA president) among other people saw the skills and knowledge that Hazel possessed and lobbied the sitting CLFA board to hire Hazel. The hiring of Hazel Jackson was probably the best move CLFA could have made to secure a high level of professionalism and stability in the role of the new Executive Director for the young CLFA organization. The rest, as they say, is history.

Hazel's accomplishments are too numerous to list here but to give perspective to the span of her career one need only realize that Hazel, as Executive Director, moved CLFA from the typewriter age to the computer age. When you stop to think about all of the changes that have occurred in the Forestry profession over the last 23 years her accomplishments are even more impressive.

Many of us who served on the CLFA Board



over the years have discussed with concern the day of Hazel's retirement. We all understood that her attention to detail and her efforts over the years have been a strong consistent force that allowed CLFA to focus on issues and actions that are the core purposes for the very existence of CLFA.

Hazel has a never-give-up attitude that is very inspiring. She exhibits professionalism in all situations and always puts the needs of CLFA

as paramount in all her dealings. Over the years Hazel has had to work with dozens, if not hundreds, of Board members. She has had to educate new Board Members on everything from the history of the CLFA to how to conduct a proper Board meeting. Hazel is incredibly efficient with everything she does and a very large part of her success with CLFA over the years can be attributed to her ability to simply get along with people. Foresters can be a little rough around the edges, but Hazel was always there to offer guidance and counsel on how to interact and communicate with folks inside and outside CLFA in a professional manner. Her constant presence in Board meetings and as Executive Director of CLFA has infused wisdom and institutional knowledge as CLFA Directors have changed over time. CLFA Directors, friends, and associates alike truly believe that the long success story of CLFA, in many ways, can be laid directly at Hazel's feet. She has done all of this while keeping the best interests of professional forestry as priority #1 in a state of over 30 million acres.

Those of us who have been associated with Hazel through the CLFA, the profession of forestry, or just as a friend, have become better and stronger people because of her.

Hazel has hired her replacement and I know that CLFA will be in good hands, but CLFA will **never** forget what Hazel has done for us.

Please join CLFA in thanking Hazel Jackson for an amazing 23 years of exemplary service as the first Executive Director of CLFA. CLFA could not have made it this far without you Hazel.

—Eric A. Schallon, RPF #2642, CLFA President 2004-05

Those of us who have been associated with Hazel through the CLFA, the profession of forestry, or just as a friend, have become better and stronger people because of her.

Heather Morrison, who has done a superb job as the Stewardship Helpline forester, will take over as Executive Director of CLFA. We wish both Hazel and Heather the best of luck as they pursue their new endeavors.



## Resources

California's Forest Resources, 2001–2005: Five-year Forest Inventory and Analysis Report. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-763. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 183 p.

Available online at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/gtr763/> or call (503) 261-1211.

# The state of California's forests

What is going on with California forests? *California's Forest Resources, 2001–2005: Five-year Forest Inventory and Analysis Report* from the USDA Forest Service attempts to put it all together.

Using data collected throughout California the study looked at forest area, ownership, volume, biomass, carbon stocks, biodiversity, forest age, dead wood, hardwood forests, insects and disease, fire, invasive plants, air pollution, tree growth and mortality, and forest products, including nontimber forest products.

Fortunately, despite this plethora of information, the report is written in an easy-to-read manner with lots of photos, plus maps, graphs, and charts that help tell the story.

The story is a fascinating one. California forests are extremely diverse with multiple ownerships—each with its own goals and objectives. Over 50% of the state's forests are publicly owned through Federal, State, and municipal agencies. Of the approximately 40% privately owned forestland, over half of that (25.6%) is in noncorporate hands, including family farmers. Private forest landowners play a major role in maintaining healthy forests.

## Survey of Family-Owned Forests

- 84% of owners are older than 55
- 17% have a bachelor's or graduate degree
- 94% are Caucasian
- 63% are male
- 45% have owned the land for more than 25 years
- 75% use their land as part of their primary residence
- 33% harvested timber, firewood, or nontimber products within 5 years preceding the survey
- <1% had written management plans
- 4-7% planned to sell, subdivide, or convert their forests

These forests provide environmental services to the entire state, including clean air and water, wildlife, recreation, and other vital assets.

We'll come back to this study in a future issue of *Forestland Steward*.

The report is available online in 3 parts, or you can order a free print copy at <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/order.shtml> or call (503) 261-1211.

## Technical Assistance

Many agencies are available to provide technical assistance, referrals, information, education, land management plan assistance, and advice.

### California Stewardship Helpline

1-800-738-TREE; [ncsaf@mcn.org](mailto:ncsaf@mcn.org)

### California Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection

Forest Landowner Assistance Programs  
Jeffrey Calvert  
916-653-8286; [jeff.calvert@fire.ca.gov](mailto:jeff.calvert@fire.ca.gov)

### Forestry Assistance Specialists

Guy Anderson (Mariposa/Madera/Merced)  
209-966-3622 x218  
Jan Bray (Amador) 530-647-5212  
Herb Bunt (Red Bluff) 530-528-5108  
Jill Butler (Santa Rosa) 707-576-2935  
Ed Crans (Placer/Yuba/Nevada)  
530-889-0111 x128  
Brook Darley (Tehama/Glenn) 530-538-5199  
Mary Huggins (S. Lake Tahoe) 530-541-1989  
Patrick McDaniel (El Dorado) 530-647-5288  
Dale Meese (Plumas) 530-283-1792  
Alan Peters (Calav/Tuol) 209-754-2709  
Jim Robbins (Fortuna) 707-726-1258  
Tom Sandelin (Fresno/King) 559-243-4136

### California Association of RCDs

916-447-7237; [staff@carcd.org](mailto:staff@carcd.org)

### California Dept of Fish & Game

Scott A. Flint  
916-653-9719; [sflint@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:sflint@dfg.ca.gov)

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jerry Reioux  
530-792-5655; [jerry.reioux@ca.usda.gov](mailto:jerry.reioux@ca.usda.gov)

### U.C. Cooperative Extension Advisors/Specialists

Mike DeLasaux, Plumas-Sierra counties  
530-283-6125; [mjdelasaux@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mjdelasaux@ucdavis.edu)

Greg Giusti, Mendocino-Lake counties  
707-463-4495; [gagiusti@ucdavis.edu](mailto:gagiusti@ucdavis.edu)

Gary Nakamura  
530-224-4902; [nakamura@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:nakamura@nature.berkeley.edu)

Bill Stewart  
510-643-3130; [stewart@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:stewart@nature.berkeley.edu)

Yana Valachovic, Humboldt-Del Norte counties  
707-445-7351; [yvala@ucdavis.edu](mailto:yvala@ucdavis.edu)

### USDA Forest Service

Jim Geiger  
530-752-6834; [jgeiger@fs.fed.us](mailto:jgeiger@fs.fed.us)

## Calendar

### January 17-19, 2009

**Strategies and Solutions for Plant Conservation in the 21st Century**  
**Sponsor:** California Native Plant Society  
**Conservation Conference**  
**Location:** Sacramento  
**Info:** [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

### January 20-22, 2009

**Forest Vegetation Management Conference: Integrated Pest Management in W. Forests**  
**Location:** Holiday Inn, Redding, CA  
**Contact:** Dave Gallagher ([daveg@totalforestry.net](mailto:daveg@totalforestry.net)) or Danielle Lindler ([jrc@gotsky.com](mailto:jrc@gotsky.com))  
**Cost:** \$110 (\$135 if postmarked after 12/29/08) includes lunch on the 1-21-09

### February 3-4, 2009

**California Plant and Soil Conference**  
**Location:** Piccadilly Inn University, Fresno  
**Sponsor:** America Society of Agronomy  
**Contact:** Mary Bianchi, UCCE, (805) 781-5949 or [mlbianchi@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mlbianchi@ucdavis.edu)  
**Cost:** Varies  
**Info:** <http://calasa.ucdavis.edu>

### February 11-12, 2009

**Forest Futures II: Maintaining Healthy and Productive Working Forests on the Northcoast**  
*(see details to the right)*

### March 18-19, 2009

**California Biodiversity Council**  
**Location:** El Centro, CA  
**Sponsor:** California Biodiversity Council  
**Contact:** Sherry Cooper, [slcooper@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:slcooper@nature.berkeley.edu), (530) 224-4902  
**Cost:** No charge except for optional meals  
**Info:** <http://biodiversity.ca.gov/>

For more information on events call the number provided or the Forest Stewardship Helpline, 1-800-738-TREE

## Grants Clearinghouse

Submit grant proposals to the Fire Safe Council Grants Clearinghouse for FFY 2010 for selected grants from Federal agencies. Please call with questions and for technical assistance to 1-866-372-2543 or go to [www.grants.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.grants.firesafecouncil.org).

### Schedule:

Feb 20, 2009—Deadline to submit proposals  
 April 20, 2009—Notification of grant status  
 May 1, 2009—Submit materials for funded grants

## Future Forests II: Maintaining Healthy and Productive Working Forests on the North Coast

February 11-12, 2009

Ferndale Fairground, Humboldt County

North Coast working forests provide a wealth of products and services—from a variety of high quality forest products to clear running water, fish, and wildlife habitat. Yet our working forests face an increasingly difficult economic and regulatory environment. Together we may be better able to identify regional strategies for supporting our timber production lands, essential infrastructure, and open space.

### Future Forests II Conference Will:

- Provide an overview of current and future trends in the wood products industry at the global, regional, and local levels.
- Examine various strategies for reducing costs and improving financial returns from traditional forest products.
- Evaluate emerging efforts to provide incentives and compensation to landowners who meet conservation objectives on working landscapes.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss and identify strategies to best position the region to explore new markets, maintain essential infrastructure, and weather down-turns in traditional markets.

### Who Should Attend

Landowners, policymakers, regulatory agency representatives, foresters, forest manufacturing, and the conservation and open space community.

### Sponsors and Conference Websites

Institute for Sustainable Forestry ([www.newforestry.org/futureforests](http://www.newforestry.org/futureforests))  
 Buckeye Forest Project ([www.buckeyeconservancy.org](http://www.buckeyeconservancy.org))  
 UC Cooperative Extension (<http://cehumboldt.ucdavis.edu>)

### Where to Register:

Pre-registration is required by Thursday February 5th. To register please contact UCCE at <http://cehumboldt.ucdavis.edu> or call 707-445-7351.  
 Cost: ~\$75 (with lunches & dinner). Send checks (payable to UC Regents) to UC Cooperative Extension, 5630 S. Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503.

### Conference Format

Local experiences and experts from outside the region will help build common ground among stakeholders about the future of the region. The conference will cover a range of topics. It will increase participants' understanding of how global wood products flows impact local markets, and how the north coast fits into that larger picture. The conference will follow a traditional format that mixes presentations, forums, and social opportunities that support discussion among a diverse audience.

### Conference Background

Two years ago the Future Forests on the North Coast conference was attended by forestland stakeholders, many of whom have historically sat in opposition to each other. Yet all found one goal in common: To maintain healthy and productive working forests on the North Coast. This conference will build upon this goal, and work to identify opportunities to sustain forestlands, essential infrastructure, and open space.

## Assistance

# The alphabet soup of forestry assistance

The Stewardship Helpline has a RFP (Registered Professional Forester) on call who can answer your forestry questions.  
1-800-738-TREE  
or [ncsaf@mcn.org](mailto:ncsaf@mcn.org)

While money remains tight, there are still some programs available to help forestland owners with their stewardship projects. The focus and eligibility for these funds varies. Contact the following for more information.

### FAS

Forestry Assistance Specialists, known as FASs, can help with all your forestry-related questions. Most CAL FIRE (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) units have a FAS who can offer technical advice or refer you to the appropriate person or agency for your needs. They also are knowledgeable about cost-share or other funds that may help with on-the-ground projects. To find the FAS for your county go to [http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource\\_mgt/downloads/2007-08ForestAdvisorList.pdf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/2007-08ForestAdvisorList.pdf)

**CFIP.** Currently, there is some CFIP (California Forest Improvement Program) money still available. These funds are provided through CAL FIRE to improve timber productivity of non-industrial private forest lands while also improving other forest resources, such as fish and wildlife habitat and soil. Landowners with 20–5000 acres are eligible for CFIP. [http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource\\_mgt/resource\\_mgt\\_forestryassistance\\_cfip.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestryassistance_cfip.php)

### NRCS

The NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) is a federal agency with a mandate to help conserve soil, water, and other natural resources. NRCS provides both technical assistance and financial assistance. The three main sources of funding for forestland are:

**EQIP** (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) provides cost-share funds for certain conservation practices identified and prioritized by local working groups. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

**WHIP** (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) is similar to EQIP. Its main goal is to improve wildlife habitat, especially for species at risk. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>

**HFRP** (Healthy Forests Reserve Program) was established to restore and enhance forest ecosystems to: 1) promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, 2) improve biodiversity, and 3) enhance carbon sequestration. HFRP offers cost-share funds under 3-year, 30-year, and <99-year contracts. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/HFRP/ProgInfo/Index.html>

### CDFG

California Department of Fish & Game offers a **Fisheries Restoration Grant**. This program can fund numerous activities that improve or restore salmon and steelhead populations. Private landowners must partner with nonprofit organizations, such as RCDs for this grant. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Administration/Grants/index.asp>

### RCD

**Resource Conservation Districts** often receive grants that provide services to individual landowners as part of a bigger project. Contact your local RCD to see what they can do for you. <http://carcd.org/directory.php>

### UCCE

**UC Cooperative Extension** has developed a booklet, *Cost-Share and Assistance Programs for Individual California Landowners*, that covers the many programs available to landowners. <http://groups.ucanr.org/Forest/files/49252.pdf>

### Fire Safe Council

If you are working on a fire safe project the **California Fire Safe Council** has a Grants Clearinghouse that may help. This site lists upcoming grants and grantwriting workshops. <http://www.firesafecouncil.org>

### How can Forestland Steward newsletter serve you?

I'd like to see more information on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My suggestions are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Add me to the mailing list /  Change my address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

To save on printing costs and paper, we encourage you to get the internet version of Forestland Steward. Check here for an email copy of each issue instead of a hard copy.

Send to CAL FIRE, Forestry Assistance, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460.  
Phone: (916) 653-8286; Fax: (916) 653-8957; email: [jeff.calvert@fire.ca.gov](mailto:jeff.calvert@fire.ca.gov)