



FORESTLAND STEWARDS

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

SPRING 2001

Fire safe projects: from chippers to chats

Nevada County Fire Safe Council mission:

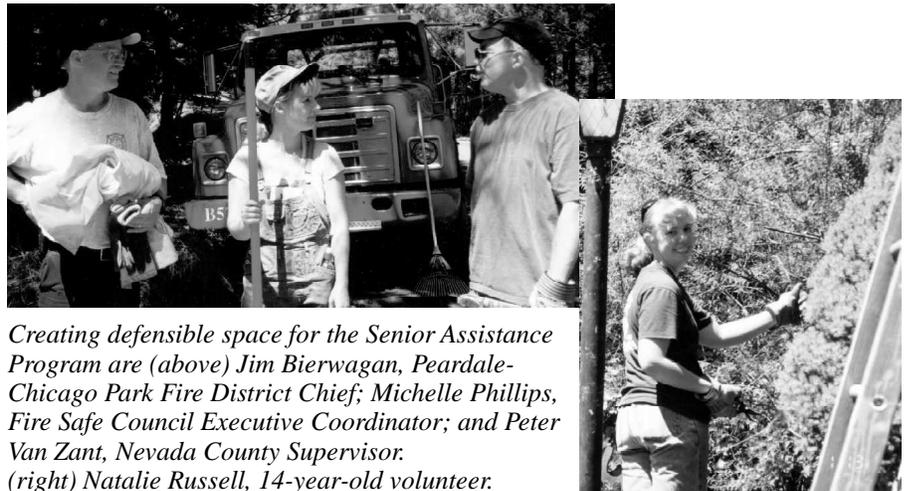
To educate the citizens and protect the natural resources from the effects of catastrophic wildland fires, while improving forest health, air and water quality.

The Nevada County Fire Safe Council has been busy. With only one full-time staffperson and some 30 to 50 volunteers, this committed group is working on lots of projects and activities designed to provide a safer living environment for the residents of Nevada County.

Perhaps their most popular program is a door-to-door free chipping and shredding service that helps neighborhoods clean up the material generated by creating defensible space. The shredder creates garden mulch welcomed by local gardeners.

Lynn Lorenson, a master gardener, compiled a booklet of *Firewise Plants for Western Nevada County*. Copies were given to all the nurseries in the county for their customers. Nursery workers have reported that many people change the way they choose plants thanks to information contained in the booklet.

The next step is a community demonstration garden being developed



Creating defensible space for the Senior Assistance Program are (above) Jim Bierwagan, Peardale-Chicago Park Fire District Chief; Michelle Phillips, Fire Safe Council Executive Coordinator; and Peter Van Zant, Nevada County Supervisor. (right) Natalie Russell, 14-year-old volunteer.

for the new Grass Valley Fire Station. This creative project will give people the chance to see firewise plants in a garden setting to identify which ones they might like for their own homes. Planting the garden will begin in the fall.

At the annual air show last year, the Council organized a parade of local fire equipment including helicopters and spotter planes to show how much fire protection is based in Nevada County. In addition, a float illustrating firewise construction will be seen at the local Fourth of July parade.

Homeowner education is a major part of the group's effort. The Fire Safe Chat Program is offered by trained presenters to provide information to small groups in their own homes.

Most volunteers are introduced to the group at the monthly Volunteer Luncheon where committees share their efforts and all find time to socialize.

For more information, contact Michelle Phillips, Fire Safe Council Executive Coordinator, at (530) 470-9193 or visit their website, <http://www.nccn.net/~firesafe>.

California Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection
Forest Stewardship Program
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Helpline

New voice on the Forest Stewardship Helpline

Heather Schur

My name is Heather Schur and I will be serving as the new Executive Director for the NorCal Society of American Foresters (SAF) office. I will be acting in the capacity of Education/Stewardship Coordinator for both the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) and the Forest Stewardship Helpline.

I am very excited about this new position. I am a Registered Professional Forester coming to this office having served as the Community Relations Consultant for the California Forest Products Commission as well as working as an independent consulting forester here in the central Sierra. In addition to these jobs, I teach forestry part-time at Sierra College in Rocklin, acted as a co-manager of the California Forest Center at Cal Expo in Sacramento, and acted as a Facilitator/Project Consultant for the nonprofit group "Talk About Trees."

As the Education/Stewardship Coordinator, I hope to achieve a few important goals. First, I would like to reach out to forest landowners to let them be aware of the many programs and services which are available to them. As urban areas continue to grow, there is an increasing need to support those who wish to continue managing their forests in a responsible and sustainable manner, rather than converting their land to non-timber use. It is my hope that through diligent research new sources of assistance for landowners can be found and that through the Forestry Helpline, people will always find an answer to their question or at the very least a competent referral.

Secondly, I plan to continue working with the many community and natural resource organizations, committees and groups that are in existence. I

believe that we could all benefit from these interactions and our active involvement with these groups will help to strengthen SAF's commitment of fostering the stewardship of our forests.

Lastly, I would like to expand upon existing forestry education programs such as the Forestry Institute for Teachers. Having brought forestry into the classroom as a facilitator with the science program "Talk About Trees," I have become aware of the importance and difficulty of educating California's youth about forest conservation. In a time where our society seems to be losing its connection to the land, it is becoming extremely important to work closely with other natural resource educational programs and to reach out to teachers and other members of the community who play an important role in education. To this end, I intend to continue working with programs such as "Ag in the Classroom," "Talk About Trees" and "Project Learning Tree."

I anticipate many more goals for this office as I work into my new position. As I write, the new office phone line is being installed and many new ideas and plans are racing through



Heather Schur

my mind. I look forward to working with all of you and appreciate any suggestions you may have.

The NorCal SAF office can be reached at:

NorCal SAF
13297 La Barr Meadows Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949
530-273-8892 (Phone and Fax)
ncsaf@mcn.org

The Forest Stewardship Helpline number remains unchanged at 1-800-738-8733 (1-800-PET-TREE).

FORESTLAND STEWARDS

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Seasonal Stewardship

Forming your own Fire Safe Council

Each year we remind you in these pages to clear the defensible space around your home. By all means do that, but this year why not go a step further? Start a Fire Safe Council in your community (or join one nearby). The California Fire Safe Council suggests the following steps:

1. Identify potential members
2. Invite them to a meeting
3. Hold a meeting
4. Appoint a facilitator
5. Define areas of concern/values at risk
6. List objectives and action items
7. Develop a plan and mission statement
8. Review the plan regularly

1 Identify key individuals and organizations that have a vested interest in the community. City officials, real estate, insurance and building industries, utilities, environmental groups, landscape architects, nurseries, and fire departments are all organizations with an interest in hazard reduction and fire safety. If no local representatives are available, regional representatives familiar with the area may prove to be valuable council members.

2 Invite these individuals to sit on the council in person or through a mailing that explains you're asking for their participation in a program that has the potential to radically improve the safety of their families, friends, and customers. Keep a record of who is invited and who attends the meetings.

3 Hold the first meeting in a neutral location. Ask potential council members to come prepared to address fire safety issues that impact their organizations. Maps detailing the area and a packet of background information about the community should be assembled for each attendee. Much of this information

is available through the chamber of commerce or local fire authorities.

4 Appoint a facilitator. This should be the first order of business for the meeting. Attributes of a good facilitator include the ability to work with people and achieve consensus. The facilitator should understand the various viewpoints of members and be able to put them in the context of the larger issue. A good facilitator should not be easily swayed by opinion and should be able to clearly evaluate the issues and concerns raised by members.

5 Define the area of concern. Because fire respects no boundaries, the fire safe council should not only consider existing home sites, but also business centers and areas of planned residential and commercial development. Identify the community's values at risk—all the people, places, natural resources and other assets that make your community special and need protection.

6 List the council's major objectives as well as action items to achieve those objectives. Use a brainstorm approach where each participant answers the question, "What do I want or need from this effort?" This will help identify every fire safety problem or objective the group thinks is important. Every suggestion, no matter how simple, controversial, or contradictory, should be written down in the order received.

Designate council members to oversee the accomplishment of action items. An objective should be quantifiable and put in a time frame.

The goal of the first meeting should be to generate consensus on fire safety issues and objectives as well as areas of concern. This may take more than one

meeting. A tour of the proposed areas of concern may help participants understand other members' viewpoints.

7 Develop a plan and a mission statement. The plan should outline the broad objectives of the council. The mission statement is the vision of the council summarized in one or two sentences.

8 Review the plan regularly to evaluate the progress made toward achieving the objectives. Make sure that planned actions are being carried out. Make adjustments in priorities and project schedules if necessary.

Cooperation is the Key

A Fire Safe Council is a voluntary organization that knows citizens can work together to improve their community's ability to survive a fire. The council might consider the following projects:

- ◆ Plan annual clean-up days for schools, parks and other community amenities.
- ◆ Sponsor a chipper to come through neighborhoods. (A chipper is a machine that turns tree trimmings into mulch.)
- ◆ Produce a publication for residents and businesses with fire safe information.
- ◆ Sponsor a seminar on designing and maintaining fire safe landscapes.
- ◆ Set up demonstration gardens.
- ◆ Schedule media events and write news releases about council activities.
- ◆ Promote public service messages through newspaper inserts, billboards or radio and television advertising.
- ◆ Form a speakers' bureau to give fire safe presentations to local civic clubs.
- ◆ Organize education campaigns such as safety fairs or mock fire exercises.

—from *Fire Safe California Community Action Guide* (see page 10).



Roads

Road rights and responsibilities: what every landowner should know

As you probably guessed, this short space is inadequate to cover what you need to know about roads—it's a huge and complex subject—but we *can* help you find the information you need.

Roads are an important stewardship concern because unsurfaced roads have been identified as one of the main sources of sediment and water quality impairment. Poor road placement and design cause excess runoff, and erosion can lead to many kinds of problems including polluted water supplies, increased flooding, landslides, destruction of fish habitat, and loss of vegetation and soil. This can be costly, leading to expensive repairs. On the other hand, proper road planning, construction, and maintenance can avoid many of these impacts.

Private landowners and landowner associations own thousands of miles of rural roads, ranging from driveways to major access routes. Some are maintained adequately but many are unmanaged, managed sporadically, or even mismanaged. To protect the quality of your land and watershed, it is important that you know how to evaluate the condition of roads on your property and what to do about any problems that occur.

The definitive book on managing forest roads is the *Handbook for Forest and Ranch Roads: A Guide for planning, designing, constructing, reconstructing, maintaining and closing wildland roads* by William Weaver and Danny Hagans. As the name implies, it covers much of what a landowner needs to know. This book is available for \$10 from the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District by calling (707)

Unsurfaced roads have been identified as one of the main sources of sediment and water quality impairment.

468-9223. It belongs on every forest landowner's bookshelf.

In addition to the practical aspects of construction and maintenance, there are also numerous legal rights and obligations regarding roads and access issues. Understanding various types of easements, deeds, what constitutes trespass and adverse possession, and who is responsible for maintenance of your roads can be valuable information, saving you from considerable headaches and expense. In extreme cases, without proper knowledge, landowners can even find themselves in the difficult and costly position of defending their property ownership in court. A good resource for background on easement and access laws is *Finding and Buying Your Place in the Country* by Les and Carol Scher.

And, lastly, University of California Extension is offering a series of workshops on roads (*see sidebar on right*) that will answer many of your questions. This is an opportunity to talk to specialists as well as get some hands-on experience in the field. The workshops will cover a wide range of topics from road legalities and responsibilities to construction and maintenance. There will also be information on how to fund your road projects.

More road workshops planned

Another series of road workshops, sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension in cooperation with local Resource Conservation Districts, will be held this year. These 2-day hands-on workshops will include lectures, demonstrations, and field work. Topics include:

Topics include:

- ◆ Landowner needs, rights, and responsibilities related to property access
- ◆ Access in the context of landowner management objectives
- ◆ Environmental impacts of rural roads
- ◆ Rural road design standards: the good, the bad and the ugly
- ◆ Road surfacing and drainage alternatives
- ◆ Stream crossing alternatives
- ◆ Making a bad road or crossing into a good one
- ◆ Doing it yourself
- ◆ Getting professional help
- ◆ Costs and funding your road project

The excellent *Handbook for Forest and Ranch Roads* by Weaver and Hagans will be used as a resource guide and handout. Other resource materials will be provided to participants. Currently, workshops are scheduled for the following dates:

May ?—Sonoma County
June 8—Amador County
August 24—Plumas County

For more information, contact Richard Harris at 510-642-2360 or rrharris@nature.berkeley.edu



NCWAP

North Coast Watershed Assessment Program to provide information for better management

Cathy Bleier
Resources Agency

In 1999, the California Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency began developing an interagency watershed assessment program on the north coast. The purpose was to develop consistent, scientifically credible information to guide landowners, agencies, watershed groups, and other stakeholders in their efforts to improve watershed and fisheries conditions.

The agencies brought together five California departments—Fish and Game (DFG), Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), Conservation’s Division of Mines and Geology (DMG), Water Resource (DWR), and the North Coast Water Quality Control Board (NCWQCB)—to identify the appropriate role and objectives of a state assessment program. The resulting North Coast Watershed Assessment Program, or NCWAP, is designed to meet four goals:

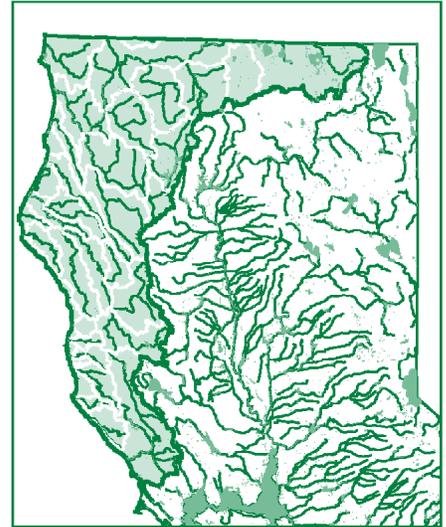
- 1) develop baseline information about watershed conditions;
- 2) guide watershed restoration

programs;

- 3) guide cooperative interagency, non-profit, and private sector approaches to “protect the best” through stewardship, easement, and other incentive programs; and
- 4) better implement laws requiring watershed assessments such as Forest Practices, Clean Water and Porter-Cologne Acts, Stream and Lakebed Alteration Act, and others.

The program provides a process for collecting and analyzing information to answer a set of critical questions designed to characterize current and past watershed conditions. It will cover approximately 6.5 million acres of private and state lands within the 12 million acre North Coast Hydrologic Region (*see map*).

NCWAP will not produce prescriptions, design projects, analyze cumulative effects of proposed projects, perform risk management, or recommend policy development or regulations. It will, however, provide a consistent, interdisciplinary foundation for voluntary stewardship and implementation of existing regulations.



The North Coast Watershed Assessment Program will cover approximately 6.5 million acres within the 12 million acre North Coast Hydrologic Region.

Benefits to Landowners

The North Coast Watershed Assessment Program will support watershed protection and planning at the project level in several ways. It will provide information that small landowners could not easily obtain, such as landslide, sediment, and Timber Harvest Plan (THP) maps for all ownerships within a watershed. These products, when used in conjunction with site-specific assessments by the landowner, will improve his or her ability to design projects that mitigate potential watershed impacts and address limiting factors to salmonid recovery. We will also work with interested landowners to demonstrate the use of GIS tools and predictive models for project planning and cumulative effects analysis.

(continued on next page)

The purpose is to develop consistent, scientifically credible information to guide landowners, agencies, watershed groups, and other stakeholders in their efforts to improve watershed and fisheries protection.



NCWAP will provide information that small landowners could not easily obtain.

(continued from previous page)

The program includes two DFG positions to identify immediate restoration opportunities and develop projects with interested landowners. NCWAP results will also be shared with State Water Resources Control Board and DFG grant programs (e.g. Proposition 13, 319 Clean Water Act, SB 271 Fisheries Restoration, and Coastal Salmon Recovery Programs). Project proposals that reflect NCWAP findings and restoration priorities will have improved chances of getting funded. Assessments can also be used for developing cooperative watershed-level salmon recovery plans that would benefit multiple landowners.

Assessment Questions

The North Coast Watershed Assessment Program is designed to answer the following critical questions for each river basin:

- ◆ What are the relationships between land use history and current vegetation and watershed disturbance?
- ◆ What is the spatial and temporal distribution of sediment delivery to streams from different sources and what is the relative importance of each source?
- ◆ What are the effects of stream, spring, and groundwater uses on water quality and quantity?
- ◆ What is the current role of large woody debris have in forming fish habitat and determining channel morphology and sediment storage?
- ◆ What are the current salmonid habitat conditions, and how do they compare to desired conditions (life history requirements and Basin Plan objectives)?

- ◆ Do current aquatic community populations and diversity reflect assessed watershed and water quality conditions?

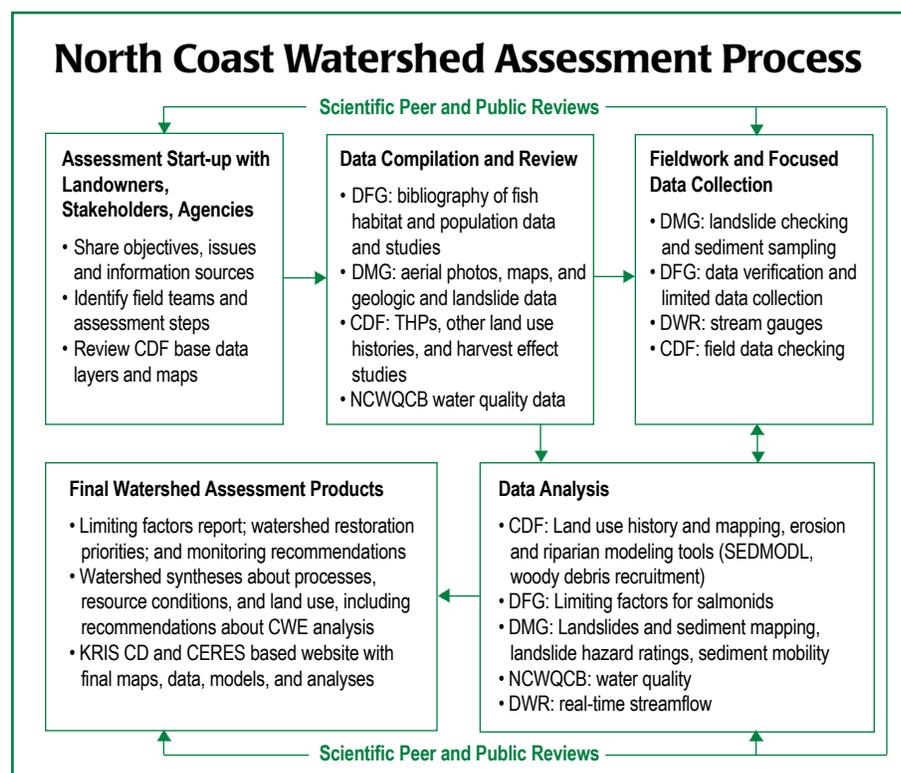
These questions are similar to those guiding other watershed assessment programs. There are already well established protocols to measure many parameters for answering these questions which NCWAP will use whenever possible. The program will develop a manual of our methods that references other published sources. NCWAP will strive to answer assessment questions at scales ranging from the planning watershed up to basin level, as appropriate, but will need to adapt objectives, methods, and level of assessment based on individual basin characteristics,

stakeholder input, existing data, and landowner cooperation for fieldwork.

Assessment Products

In responding to assessment questions, the North Coast Watershed Assessment Program will provide data sets and databases, maps and GIS data, topical reports, and an overall summary with recommendations for every basin. Products will include photos and maps of current land use, landslide locations and landslide risks, sediment distribution in streams, and 60 years of timber harvest history. NCWAP will compile data on instream channel and riparian conditions, fish populations, and water quality, and develop new data as feasible. It will analyze sediment transport and the effects of land use history on vegetation change, watershed disturbance and instream habitat. The Department of Fish and Game will then use all this information to analyze limiting factors for salmonid protection and habitat restoration.

The summary report for each basin



will integrate all information to provide an overview of watershed function and condition. This report will include a discussion of the linkages between land use, natural processes, and limiting factors; priorities for restoration; key data gaps and monitoring needs; recommendations for cumulative effects analyses; and general management recommendations.

The North Coast Watershed Assessment Program will also work with local stakeholders to use models for predicting road runoff, riparian vegetation and woody debris recruitment, and other GIS tools. Data, maps, reports, and findings will be available free on CD from the Institute for Fisheries Resources' through its KRIS tool and website, and on-line through the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES).

Public Input and Review

The North Coast Watershed Assessment Program is designed to be flexible. The departments recognize that many basins have significant data collection efforts underway. Therefore, the assessment team for each basin will work with landowners, local agencies, watershed groups, restorationists, and other stakeholders to refine assessment objectives and methods based on the unique characteristics of that watershed. We will specifically seek input on watershed problems and concerns; existing assessments, data, and studies; and opportunities to conduct fieldwork on private lands. Our initial scoping efforts in the Gualala River and Redwood Creek basins are developing strategies for coordinated property access requests, data and GIS protocol development; communication; coordination with local assessments and support for local monitoring objectives.

NCWAP has also contracted for independent scientific peer review and public review of our methods. The program will incorporate changes into our manual in response to these processes as feasible, and will document all

comments. The Governor's budget for next year includes funds for ongoing peer review of assessment products from each basin.

Benefits of Increased Interagency Coordination

The North Coast Watershed Assessment Program will provide a consistent set of methods, data, and interpretation for understanding watershed condition and protection needs that will be used by participating agencies and others. NCWAP is coordinating with DFG's Basin Planners and with participating agencies' THP review staffs. Agencies are also integrating new programs, such as NCWQCB's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program and DFG development of restoration project monitoring protocols, into NCWAP program planning. These coordination efforts will benefit both stakeholders and agencies by reducing interagency conflicts, improving confidence in agency decision-making, and expediting permit review and grant processes.

The State expects information about limiting factors, habitat conditions, and restoration priorities to be incorporated into National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) recovery planning for listed salmonids, including recognition of restoration activities identified in or precipitated by the assessment process. The assessments should also strengthen the scientific foundation for TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) development and implementation.

NCWAP has begun working with the Forest Service and BLM to explore how we can integrate our assessment with their efforts in mixed ownership watersheds. We will also share data with regional efforts by local government such as the Five Northern County Salmon Conservation Planning program.

Program Resources and Next Steps

The North Coast Watershed Program will provide over 50 new staff to the five participating departments. Every basin team will have at least six members, including two or more biologists and geologists and at least one forester and water quality or environmental specialist. There will be a lead contact person for each basin to answer questions, communicate progress, and coordinate team member activities as needed with residents and stakeholders.

It will take seven years to complete these baseline assessments. Program success will ultimately depend on the participation and input of stakeholders, program flexibility, and the development of credible, useful products for watershed planning and adaptive management. The State will also explore options for filling critical data gaps or supporting focused monitoring efforts. We look forward to working with all North Coast stakeholders to implement this program so that we can improve our ability to manage, protect and restore our watersheds.

These efforts will benefit both stakeholders and agencies by reducing interagency conflicts, improving confidence in agency decision-making, and expediting permit review and grant processes.



Funding

Cost-share opportunities

Cost Share Directory

The *2000–01 Cost Share and Assistance Programs for Individual California Landowners and Indian Tribes Directory* is now available online at <http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/financial.html> or as a hard copy booklet from the California Forest Stewardship Helpline at 1-800-738-TREE.

This valuable directory is updated annually by UC Cooperative Extension Forestry and can provide forestland owners with the latest information on funding sources and contacts.

This year's Directory includes funding sources from state, federal, and private/nonprofit entities. The summary of each program includes its goals, types of projects supported, eligibility, limitations, and contact person. There are tips on how to submit a successful project and lists of technical assistance resources.

CFIP

The goal of the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is to "improve the timber productivity of non-industrial private forest lands while also improving other forest resources, such as fish and wildlife habitat and soil resources so that the overall effect is to improve the total forest resource system."

CFIP funds forestry practices including management planning, reforestation, site preparation, pre-commercial thinning, land conservation (erosion control, forest road rehabilitation, revegetation), and fish and wildlife habitat improvement. The cost-share rate is generally 75% up to \$50,000 per contract but can be higher in emergency situations such as fire or other natural disaster.

CFIP is administered by the

Species Spotlight

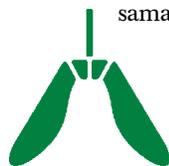
Bigleaf Maple: for tree-houses, fine furniture, and beauty

"...and it makes great firewood too!"
—Jeff Calvert

Bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) is a Pacific coast hardwood species, found along the coast from Southern California to British Columbia; it is also present in the Sierra Nevada and coastal mountains. The tree grows on dry to moist sites and is often found on disturbed areas, such as after fire or logging.

Tree identification is easy. There's the characteristic leaf shape, and this species has the biggest leaves of any maple—they can grow to a foot across. The leaves turn yellow-brown in the fall.

Thousands of tiny yellow-green flowers grow in bunches, with seeds that are called double-winged samaras. Many of the seeds



double-winged samara

remain on the tree into the winter where they serve as food for small animals.

The bigleaf maple is an important food plant for animals—the seeds are eaten by small mammals and birds and the twigs are food for elk and deer. Insects are attracted to the nectar and yellow pollen. And humans are known to use the flowers in salads and make a type of maple syrup from the sap.

The tree has a close-grained wood that is valued for use in furniture and veneers as well as for making musical instruments. Native peoples used the wood for paddles and dishes and the inner bark for baskets, rope and whisks.

In moist forests, bigleaf maple branches are often covered with hanging mosses. On drier sites, the branches begin lower to the ground, making these trees a favorite for tree-houses.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). Applications for CFIP funds are accepted continually. For information on the availability of funds and to contact the CDF Forestry Assistance Specialist nearest you, call the California Forest Stewardship Helpline (1-800-PET-TREE).

EQIP

EQIP, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, provides technical, financial and educational assistance targeting natural resource problems. Over \$350,000 will be allocated for forestry and range programs and there are opportunities for forestland owners

to participate in this program. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. EQIP is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). For more information, contact your local NRCS office or go to the website at <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/rts/eqip1.html>.

California Forest Stewardship Helpline

The Stewardship Helpline is a great starting point for any questions on project funding. A Registered Professional Forester staffs the Helpline, and is knowledgeable in all aspects of forestry assistance. Call 1-800-738-TREE.



Education

Forestry Institute for Teachers helps teachers bring forestry to the classroom

The Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) brings teachers to the forest in order to bring the forest to the classroom.

FIT was developed to help teachers understand the very complex and sometimes controversial fields of forest ecology and forest resource management. They return to the classroom with knowledge and resources to help their students appreciate the many aspects of the forest ecosystem and its varied uses.

During the intense week of learning, numerous specialists share information with participants. Topics include soil, watershed, fire and fuels management, wildlife management, silviculture, and archaeology. There are field tours to look at local forestry-related projects such as lumber manufacturing and restoration. Different forestry perspectives are provided and shared.

In addition, qualified resource people help participants develop their own curriculum units, providing ideas and resources for hands-on learning experiences and projects. One of the important benefits that teachers receive is the opportunity to network with other teachers from around the state. This sometimes leads to projects shared across schools and geographic areas.

This week-long institute is open to K-12 teachers and is held in a forested environment. The program is free to participants, with meals and lodging included, thanks to dozens of private and public sponsors including timber

"Tree cookies" are one of many classroom aids that help students understand the forest ecosystem.



companies, educational organizations, government agencies, and others. All participants receive extensive classroom materials, plus a \$200 stipend on completion and implementation of a forest-related curriculum unit for use in their classrooms.

There are three sessions held each year, with 45 participants per session. The camps this year will be held at Camp Latieze in Shasta County, Humboldt State University in Humboldt County, and University of California Forestry Camp in Plumas County.

This program was developed by the Northern California Society of



American Foresters, University of California Cooperative Extension, Shasta County Office of Education, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Project Learning Tree.

For more information or to apply for FIT, contact Heather Schur at the California Forest Stewardship Helpline, 1-800-738-TREE or go to the website at <http://www.forestryinstitute.org>.

Testimonial from a FIT graduate

I attended the Camp Latieze Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) in June, 2000. It was simply the best workshop I have attended in my nearly 30 years as a teacher.

The program included first-class teaching by professionals engaged in science-based forest practices. Foresters, soils specialists, aquatic biologists, loggers, commercial forestland owners, non-commercial forestland owners, archaeologists, fire ecologists, forest rangers, and most importantly for a teacher "on vacation," a Professional Cook. Wow! Did I learn a lot (three pounds, in fact)!

Every teacher has her/his pearls, our best lessons, poems, activities, poster, our tricks-of-the trade which engage students in meaningful ways. And we get fantastic kids in our classes, kids who need to know what we know and experience what we

have experienced. Our greatest challenge in the classroom is to string our pearls into a necklace that kids want to wear: want to learn, want to experience. Relevance is the key to attention. FIT provided just such a creative opportunity by exposing us all to a comprehensive and coherent program of how decisions are made, based on science, economics and politics, on how our natural resources are managed and used. I left the camp with a pouch of pearls and a skein of teacher-string.

So, to those with whom I went to camp, and to those who would become more knowledgeable about natural resource conservation and become better teachers along the way, I say, "Stay FIT!"

—Harry Hickman, Placer High School, Auburn



Resources

California Fire Safe Council website: comprehensive, engaging, and helpful

The California Fire Safe Council website at <http://www.firesafecouncil.org/> is an example of a great website—friendly design and easy navigation; links to many other useful sites, organizations, and individuals; and as much information as you can possibly absorb—in nice webpage-sized bits.

The site encourages people to get

involved, the bywords being *partnerships* and *cooperation*. Who can resist?

Go to the site and find out what a Fire Safe Council is and who comprises the state council.

The “fire safe material” section is excellent, with a brochure on fire safe landscaping, a homeowner checklist, and even information on how to place a public service advertisement in your

local newspaper. A booklet called “Fire Safe—Inside and Out” covers everything from establishing an emergency water supply to building or remodeling a fire safe house, to what to do when threatened by wildlife.

Do you want to know how fire safe your house is? Take the test. If you pass a question, you get an encouraging response. If you fail, there’s a good explanation of why it’s important to take that step.

There is the Fire Safe California Community Action Guide, a comprehensive publication, beautifully written, that discusses the importance and problem of fire in California, then talks about how people can work to make their communities less vulnerable. Several case studies are highlighted to show what others have accomplished. A video complements the guide and will be sent upon request (an e-mail link is provided for making the request).

If you want to find a Fire Safe Council in your area, check out the “local councils” section where you’ll find current minutes and contacts for each council.

There are also sections on the California Fire Plan, a legislative update, and even information on how a council can establish nonprofit status (complete with a sample application).

Scores of Fire Safe Links go to agencies, organizations, businesses, and others concerned with these issues.

It is more difficult to gather all this information without the internet, but, for those Luddites among us, there’s a street address and phone number. To request materials or to talk to a real person, contact the California Fire Safe Council at 2410 K Street, Suite C. Sacramento, CA 95816; 916/447-7415.

Technical Assistance Resources

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

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

Forest Landowner Assistance Programs
Jeffrey Calvert
(916) 653-8286
jeffrey_calvert@fire.ca.gov

Forestry Assistance Specialists
Jill Butler (Santa Rosa)
(707) 576-2935

Rich Eliot (Fortuna)
(707) 946-1960

Tess Albin-Smith (Fort Bragg)
(707) 961-1531

Adam Wyman (Red Bluff)
(530) 529-8548

Chris Waters (Camino)
(530) 644-2345 x292

vacant (Fresno)
(559) 243-4108

Glenn Barley (Riverside)
(909) 320-6120

California Resources Agency:
California Environmental Resources
Evaluation System (CERES)
Deanne DiPietro
(916) 653-8614
deanne@ceres.ca.gov

California Association of RCDs

Thomas Wehri
(916) 447-7237
carcd@ns.net

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jerry Reioux
(530) 792-5655
jerry.reioux@ca.usda.gov

Farm Service Agency

Larry Plumb
(530) 792-5520

California Dept of Fish & Game

Marty Berbach
(916) 327-8839
mberbach@dfg.ca.gov

U.C. Cooperative Extension Forestry

Richard Harris
(510) 642-2360
rrharris@nature.berkeley.edu

Gary Nakamura
(530) 224-4902
gmnakamura@ucdavis.edu

USDA Forest Service

Sandra Stone
(707) 562-8918
sstone01@fs.fed.us



Calendar

May 9, 2001 7-9:30 p.m.

North Coast Watershed Assessment Program (NCWAP) Public Forum

Fortuna, CA
State Resources Agency & UC Coop Ext.
Yana Valachovic 707-445-7351; no charge
River Lodge, 1800 Riverwalk Drive,
Fortuna; <http://www.ncwatershed.ca.gov/>

May 10, 2001

Training the Trainers Workshop

Red Bluff, CA
Wild on Watersheds, CARCDs, Tehama
Co. RCD, Clean Water Team, RWQCB,
DWR
Jennifer Allen, 530-758-9476;
kissafarmer@aol.com; no charge
<http://www.carcd.org/wow/wow.html>

May 10, 2001 7-9:30 p.m.

North Coast Watershed Assessment Program (NCWAP) Public Forum

Fort Bragg, CA
State Resources Agency & UC Coop Ext.
Greg Giusti 707-463-4495; no charge
Fort Bragg Town Hall, 363 North Main
Street, Fort Bragg
<http://www.ncwatershed.ca.gov/>

May 15, 2001 6-9:30 pm

North Coast Watershed Assessment Program (NCWAP) Public Forum

Scott Villy. Grange Siskiyou Co
State Resources Agency & UC Coop Ext.
Call to confirm attendance to Watershed
Council meeting and potluck 6-8 p.m.
530-224-4902; no charge
7246 Quartz Valley Road, Greenview
<http://www.ncwatershed.ca.gov/>

May 15, 2001 8 am-4 pm

Collins Pine Company Tour

Chester, CA
Forest Stewards Guild
Call to sign up Jean Shaffer 360-459-0946
jeanforest@cco.net; no charge

May 16, 2001 7-9:30 p.m.

North Coast Watershed Assessment Program (NCWAP) Public Forum

Weaverville, CA
State Resources Agency & UC Coop Ext.
Gary Nakamura 530-224-4902; no charge
Trinity County Library, 211 N. Main
Street, Weaverville
<http://www.ncwatershed.ca.gov/>

May 17-19, 2001

Annual Forest Landowners of California Meeting

Quincy, CA
Forest Landowners of California
Dan Weldon, 916-972-0273
dweldon@forestlandowners.org
\$60-\$120
At the Plumas/Sierra County Fairgrounds
<http://www.forestlandowners.org>

May 19-20, 2001

Smart Growth for California and Wildlife: A Call to Action

San Diego, CA
National Wildlife Federation and
Planning & Conservation League Found.
Jennifer Palyash, 916-444-8726,
pclmail@pcl.org; <http://www.pcl.org>

May 22-25, 2001

Klamath Basin Fish & Water Management Symposium

Arcata, CA
Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish & Water
Commission and Humboldt State Univ
Sabra Steinberg, Symposium
Coordinator, 707-839-1128,
klamcoord@mckinleyville.net; \$95
www.humboldt.edu/~extended/klamath/

June 5-7, 2001 9 a.m.

Board of Forestry

Yreka, CA
California Dept. of Forestry
916-653-8007; fax 916-653-0989

June 8, 2001 8:30 a.m.

Maintaining Forest, Ranch & Vineyard Roads

Plymouth, CA
University of California Coop Extension
Sherry Cooper 530-224-4902
shcooper@ucdavis.edu; \$36
Space is limited, so reserve early

July 1, 2001

Sustainable Forestry Project Tour Led by Katherine Bell

Winthrop, WA
Forest Stewards Guild
Call to sign up Jean Shaffer 360-459-0946
jeanforest@cco.net; no charge

July 10-12, 2001 9 a.m.

Board of Forestry

Sacramento, CA
California Dept. of Forestry
916-653-8007; fax 916-653-0989

Conservation Easements: Rewarding Forest Stewardship

An intensive three-hour workshop, geared toward forest landowners, will cover the how's and why's of conservation easements for managed forest lands, including, through the use of a hypothetical case study, an analysis of the financial benefits landowners may receive by using conservation easements. These workshops are sponsored by UC Extension and Pacific Forest Trust. Contact Parker Goda, 707 578-9950, pgodar@pacificforest.org

A tentative list of dates are:
Mendocino County (Ukiah): June
Plumas County (Quincy): June
Shasta County (Mt. Shasta): September
Humboldt County (Eureka): October

July 12-13, 2001

CFSC's 20th Anniversary: Influence of Intensive Management on Soil Quality and Sustainable Forest Productivity

Mt. Shasta, CA
California Forest Soils Council
Earl Alexander, earlbalexander@cs.com
or Dan Sendek, dan_sendek@fire.ca.gov

July 24-25, 2001

CFSC Annual Weed Tour

Yreka, CA
California Forest Pest Council
Tom Young, 530-475-3453 x105,
tyoung@snowcrest.net

For more information on these calendar items, call the number given or the Forest Stewardship Helpline, 1-800-738-TREE. To submit an event or to receive this calendar by email, contact Sherry Cooper, 530-224-4902; shcooper@ucdavis.edu.

ONLINE CALENDAR!

Find a more comprehensive calendar, updated monthly, at the California Forest Stewardship website:

<http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward>



Flex Your Power

Help California through the energy crisis



California continues to experience electrical shortages and rolling blackouts throughout the State. These may affect us both on the job and at home. To reduce the risk of power outages, the most important thing we can do in the short term is reduce our demand for electricity and use energy more efficiently.

The Governor and California Legislature are working with utility companies, generators and consumer groups to fashion long-term solutions for reliable and affordable electricity. The State has already implemented a plan to reduce consumption by at least 8% across the board.

We have an important role to play right now—**FLEX OUR POWER TO CONSERVE!**

Below you will find simple things that we can do to help reduce energy consumption. Many of you have already taken some of these steps, but I

encourage each of you to check again. These are minimal efforts that we can all implement right now to reduce demand, cut energy costs, and serve as an example to others in our communities.

While at Home:

- ◆ Turn thermostats down to 68° or below. Reduce settings to 55° before going to sleep or when away for the day. (For each 1 degree, you'll save up to 5% on your heating costs.)
- ◆ Turn off non-essential lights and appliances.
- ◆ Avoid running large appliances such as washers, dryers, and electric ovens during peak demand hours from 5:00am to 9:00am and 4:00pm to 7:00pm
- ◆ Close shades and blinds at night to reduce the amount of heat lost through windows.
- ◆ Buy Energy Star appliances, products and lights.

While at Work:

- ◆ Turn thermostats down to 68° or below. Reduce settings to 55° at the end of the day. (For each 1 degree, you'll save up to 5% on your heating costs.)
- ◆ Turn off all unnecessary lights, especially in unused offices and conference rooms and turn down remaining lighting levels where possible.
- ◆ Set computers, monitors, printers, copiers and other business equipment to their energy saving feature, and turn them off at the end of the day.
- ◆ Minimize energy usage during peak demand hours from 5:00am to 9:00am and 4:00pm to 7:00pm
- ◆ Buy Energy Star appliances, products, and lights.

Tips for Your Kids:

- ◆ Choose an energy monitor for your classroom every week who will make sure that energy is being used properly.
- ◆ Start an "Energy Patrol" at school and at home. Check out the California Energy Commission's website—www.energy.ca.gov/education for more ideas.
- ◆ At home, hold a ribbon up to the edges of windows and doors. If it blows, you've found a leak. Tell your parents.
- ◆ When you leave the room, turn off the light.

I know you will all do your best to conserve energy, both while fulfilling your CDF mission, and when at home. Working together we can get through this energy crises.

Thanks for your help,

Andrea E. Tuttle, Director

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

How can the *Forestland Steward* newsletter help you?

I'd like to see more information on _____

My suggestion is _____

Add me to the mailing list / Change my address:

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____

Forestland Steward is also available on the internet. Would you like to receive an email alert of each new issue instead of a hard copy?

Send to CDF, Forestry Assistance, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460.
Phone: (916) 653-8286; Fax: (916) 653-8957; email: jeffrey_calvert@fire.ca.gov