

California Forest Science Symposium

Keeping Science Relevant in Forest Management

February 19-20, 2026

2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, California

CFSS
2026



The **California Forest Science Symposium** is the annual workshop of the [California Society of American Foresters](#), [California Fire Science Consortium](#), and [California Forest Pest Council](#). This year's theme of "Keeping Science Relevant in Forest Management," is focused on the enduring partnership between research and management. Join foresters, researchers, and practitioners to share knowledge on California forests.

7.5 SAF Category 1 Credits

*California DPR Continuing Education have been applied for
ISA Course Code: WE-26-157*

(Pre-meeting) Wednesday, February 18, 2026

		Forest Insect and Disease Training	
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Forest Pest Council Field Training	Field training on forest pests and diseases in California conifer and hardwood forests, tree health assessments, and how to identify pest issues from observable signs and symptoms. Hosted by the California Forest Pest Council and sponsored by Berkeley Forests , and CAL FIRE . <i>Blodgett Forest Research Station, 4501 Blodgett Forest Road, Georgetown, CA</i>	
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	SAF Executive Meeting GARDEN TERRACE	California Society of American Foresters Executive Committee Meeting (Open to all SAF Members)	

(Pre-meeting) Thursday, February 19, 2026

		Institutional Reform for Forest Management
8:30 am - noon	CFSC & CAL FIRE Workshop GRAND BALLROOM	Research workshop sponsored by the California Fire Science Consortium and CAL FIRE .

Thursday, February 19, 2026

7:00 am	Booth set-up GRAND BALLROOM	<i>Sponsor and Vendor Check-in</i>
8:00 am	Registration Open GRAND BALLROOM	<i>Attendee check-in and Poster drop off</i>
1:00 pm	Welcome and Plenary GRAND BALLROOM	Introduction to CFSS Jeremy Zagarella, RPF, California SAF Opening Plenary Nadia Tase, Fire & Resource Assessment Program, CAL FIRE
2:00 pm		Break



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	<p>Forest Market Economics SALON 1</p> <p>Crowd In or Crowd Out? How Public Fuel Treatments Influence Private Wildfire Mitigation (2:15 pm) Frederik Strabo, UC Davis</p> <hr/> <p>Wood Processing Capacity as a Driver of Wildfire (2:40 pm) Alyssa Nazari Jain, UC Berkeley</p> <hr/> <p>Wood Product Markets (3:05 pm) Mike Buffo, Mason Bruce, and Girard</p>
	<p>Emergent Disease Problems SALON 2</p> <p><i>(DPR Credits Available)</i></p> <p>How Many Trees Have Been Killed by SOD? (2:15 pm) Delaney Siegmund, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo</p> <hr/> <p>In California's Changing Climate, Latent Pathogens Drive Novel Woody Plant Diebacks on a Large Geographic Scale (2:40 pm) Matteo Garbelotto, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources</p> <hr/> <p>Occurrence, Distribution, and Impacts of <i>Tubakia californica</i> on Tanoak (3:05 pm) Maylin On, Cal Poly Humboldt</p>
2:15 pm	<p>Silviculture SALON 3</p> <p>Transforming to Multiaged Management along Northern California's Coast Range: Responses to Retention Harvest and Hardwood Control in Douglas-fir/Tanoak (2:15 pm) Alan Cooper, Cal Poly Humboldt</p> <hr/> <p>Density Management in Mature California Mixed-Conifer Stands Under Stress (2:40 pm) Chris Looney, Forest Ecologist</p> <hr/> <p>Growth Responses to Forest Health Treatments in Sierra Nevada Mixed-Conifer Forests (3:05 pm) Jessica Katz, UC Berkeley</p> <hr/> <p>Constraints on Pine Regeneration in Gap-Based Silvicultural Systems with Upper Diameter Harvest Limits (3:18 pm) Claire Whicker, Berkeley Forests</p> <hr/> <p>Treatments Mediate Wildfire Impacts to Old-Growth Giant Sequoia in the World's Largest Grove (2:15 pm) Bryant Nagelson, University of Nevada Reno</p>
3:30 pm	<p>Wildfire SALON 4</p> <p>Fuel Treatments and Prior Burns Limit Fire Spread and Severity, but Effectiveness Declines with Increasing Fire Weather and Fuel Age (2:40 pm) Jessika McFarland, UC Berkeley</p> <hr/> <p>Ownership Influences Forest Structure and Resulting Likelihood of High Severity Wildfire (3:05 pm) Brandon Collins, UC Berkeley</p>
	<p>Break</p>



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			Modern Wildfire Dynamics in Coast Redwood Forests: Severity Trends, Reburns, and Postfire Recovery (04:00 pm) Brian Woodward, UC Cooperative Extension Santa Cruz
		Redwood Silviculture SALON 1	How Landscape Scale Restoration Effects Local Economies and Carbon Sequestration (04:30 pm) Noelle Dorward, Save the Redwoods League
4:00 pm		Shrubs SALON 2	Developing Novel Data and Tools for California's Shrublands (04:00 pm) Emma Underwood, UC Davis
		Microsite Reforestation SALON 3	Microsite Effects on Post-Wildfire Reforestation Success in the Sierra Nevada (04:00 pm) Tamar J. Zeevi, University of Nevada Reno
			An Adaptive Modeling Framework to Guide Climate-Resilient Reforestation at Microsite Scales (04:30 pm) Wesley Radford, Tahoe Environmental Research Center
		Hardwood Pyrosilviculture SALON 4	California Black Oak Persistence Highly Variable Under Fuel Treatment Types in Sierra Nevada Mixed Conifer Forests (04:00 pm) Kevin Charpentier, University of Nevada Reno
			Burn Severity Metric Validation in California Oak Woodlands (04:30 pm) Lauren Standiford, UC Berkeley
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm		Reception GRAND BALLROOM	
5:15 pm - 6:15 pm		Poster Session GRAND BALLROOM	
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm		Quiz Bowl SALON 1-2	<i>Quiz Bowl offers students a chance to showcase their knowledge and connect with peers and professionals in the field. Audience participation is welcome.</i>



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Friday, February 20, 2026

7:00 am	Breakfast GRAND BALLROOM	
8:00 am	Plenary GRAND BALLROOM	Foresters on Campus - Running a Modern Forestry Program Moderator: Dan Tomacheski (Sierra Pacific Industries) Panelists: Cole Humphrey (CLFA), Scott Stephens (UC Berkeley), Valerie Elder (College of the Redwoods)
8:50 am	Break	
	Hydrology SALON 1	Ecohydrologic Controls on Fire Hazard in a Managed Redwood Forest (9:00 am) Joe Restaino, CAL FIRE Forest Harvesting Effects on Hydrological Watershed Processes – Insights from the Caspar Creek Third Experiment (9:25 am) Salli Dymond, Northern Arizona University Tree Water Use and Streamflow Dynamics in Coastal Northern California Forests: Implications for Forest Resilience in the Face of Climate Change (9:50 am) Kaitlyn Briggs, Cal Poly Humboldt
9:00 am	Non-Native Insects SALON 2 <i>(DPR Credits Available)</i>	A Phylogenetic Epidemiology Approach to Predicting the Establishment of Multi-Host Plant Pests (9:00 am) Shannon Lynch, UC Davis History and Current management of Emerald Ash Borer in Oregon (9:25 am) Christine Buhl, Oregon Department of Forestry History and Current management of Mediterranean Oak Borer in Oregon (9:40 am) Christine Buhl, Oregon Department of Forestry Balsam Woolly Adelgid and Other Tree Pests Associated with Grand Fir in North Coastal California (9:55 am) Wallis Robinson, UC Cooperative Extension Goldspotted Oak Borer History and Management in California (10:10 am - 10:25 am) Joelene Tamm, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
	Post-Fire Effects SALON 3	Reforestation and Fuel Loads: Comparing Burned and Reburned Young Forests (9:00 am) Corrina Munger, RPF, UC Berkeley The FiredWood Project: Bridging Fire Effects and Merchantable Tree Properties in the Sierra Nevada (9:25 am) Michael Stambaugh, University of Missouri Invasive Species in Post-Fire Eastern Sierra Nevada Yellow Pine Forests (9:50 am) Stephanie Yelenik, USDA Forest Service, RMRS Patterns of Post-Fire Regeneration within the 2021 Tamarack Fire (10:02 am) Alison Paulson, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest



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<p>9:00 am (cont.)</p> <p>Integrating Fire Management SALON 4</p>	<p>Pyroethnography of Butte County (9:00 am) Kyle Mason, Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve</p>
	<p>Any Black is Better than No Black at all (9:25 am) John Mount, Central Sierra Historical Society</p>
	<p>Integrated Fire Management: California and International Initiatives to Enhance Forest Resilience (9:50 am) Hugh Safford, UC Davis</p>
<p>10:00 am</p> <p>Career Pathways Panel GARDEN TERRACE</p>	<p><i>(Student Session)</i> Forestry Mentorship Program Career Pathways Panel Hosted by California Forestry Mentorship Program</p>
<p>10:15 am</p> <p>Break</p>	
<p>The Case for Management SALON 1</p> <p>Ongoing Forest Pest Research SALON 2</p> <p style="color: red; font-style: italic;">(DPR Credits Available)</p>	<p>Evaluation of Air Pollution Emissions and Health and Economic Impacts of the 2022 Mosquito Wildfire (10:45 am) Thomas Buchholz, Spatial Informatics Group</p>
	<p>Where the Fires Didn't Burn (11:10 am) Frederick Euphrat, RPF, Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group</p>
	<p>A Retrospective Burn Severity Analysis of the Quincy Library Group Project (11:35 am) Kristin Nesbit, UC Berkeley</p>
	<p>Novel Fire-Disease Interactions may Buffer Forest Spaces from Invasive Disease Infections (10:45 am) Michelle Mohr, UC Santa Barbara</p>
	<p>Following Patterns of Tree Damage and Fuel Loading along Power Lines (11:10 am) Rosemary Sherriff, Cal Poly Humboldt</p>
	<p>Measuring Changes in Fuel Loads Following Beetle Epidemics (11:35 am) Crystal Homicz, UC Davis</p>
	<p>Ripe for Reforestation: Modeling Cone Ripeness Phenology to support Wild Conifer Seed Collections for Restoration Post-fire (10:45 am) Nina Venuti, UC Davis</p>
	<p>Investigating Early Cryptic Drivers of Conifer Regeneration Trajectories after High-Severity Wildfire (11:00 am) Tessa Putz, UC Davis</p>
	<p>When and Where to Plant after High-Severity Fire? Lessons from Natural and Planted Regeneration Patterns in Recent Wildfires (11:15 am) Andrew Latimer, UC Davis</p>
<p>Postfire SALON 3</p>	<p>Supporting Reforestation in an Era of Change (11:30 am) Jennifer Smith, USDA Climate Hub</p>
	<p>Monitoring Post-Fire Reforestation Success: Collaborative Approaches from California's Emergency Forest Restoration Teams (11:45 am) Nic Dutch and Daylin Wade, UC Cooperative Extension</p>



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10:45 am (cont.)	Montane Ecosystems SALON 4	Meadow Restoration as a Wildfire Mitigation Tool in the Sierra Nevada (10:45 am) Hunter Noble, University of Nevada Reno
		Mapping Meadows as Sites of Eco-Cultural Revitalization in the Mid-Klamath Basin (11:00 am) Claire McCoy and Martina Mapatis, UC Berkeley
		Managing Montane Meadows Under Climate Change: Ecohydrological Insights from the Sagehen Basin in the Sierra Nevada (11:15 am) Jennifer Natali, UC Berkeley
		Mortality, Recruitment, and Growth of a Montane Hardwood-Conifer Forest in Southern California (11:30 am) Marko Spasojevic, UC Riverside
		Genetic Drivers of Ecological Strategy Variation in Quaking Aspen (11:45 am) Roxy Cruz, UC Berkeley
Noon	Lunch GRAND BALLROOM	SAF Business Meeting and Awards (Open to all) (12:00 - 12:30 pm) California Society of American Foresters
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Student Session GRAND BALLROOM	Student Job Fair and Raffle Sponsored by the California Forestry Mentorship Program and CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Program. Participating students can earn raffle tickets for the drawing.
1:30 pm	Reforestation SALON 1	A Century of Coast Redwood Reforestation Research from Jackson Demonstration State Forest Lands (1:30 pm) Lynn Webb, CAL FIRE Jackson Demonstration State Forest
		Establishing Climate-Wise Seed Lot Selection for Sierra Nevada Reforestation (1:55 pm) Sarah Bisbing, University of Nevada Reno
		Managing Seed Orchard and Nurseries at Scale (2:05 pm) Jessica Hinojosa, Sierra Pacific Industries
		Carbon, Climate, and Natural Disturbance: A Review of Mechanisms, Challenges, and Tools for Understanding Forest Carbon Stability in an Uncertain Future (1:30 pm) Peng Gao, University of North Carolina Wilmington
		Managing Forest Disturbance Interactions under Climate Change (1:55 pm) Joan Dudney, UC Santa Barbara
	Climate Change and Disturbance SALON 2 <i>(DPR Credits Available)</i>	Removing Dead Trees after Mass Drought Mortality Enhances Fire-Adapted Tree Recruitment, Reduces Future Fire Severity, and has Mixed Effects on Carbon Stocks (2:07 pm) Rebecca Wayman, CAL FIRE FRAP
		State of the Sequoias (2:20 pm) Kristen Shive, UC Cooperative Extension



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Modeling and Quantification
SALON 3

1:30 pm
(cont.)

Instructions Not Included* : A Journey through FVS Calibration
(1:30 pm) Jonathan Ali Garcia, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Application of FVS for Management Planning in the Sierra Mixed Conifer

(1:55 pm) Kestrel Grevatt, Berkeley Forests

California Carbon Explorer: An Open-Source Platform for Visualizing Modeled Forest Carbon Cycle Dynamics within a Model-Data Fusion Framework

(2:07 pm) Lily Klinek, UC Davis

Forecasting the Climate Impacts of Forest Management: CCI's Quantification Methodology in Practice

(2:20 pm) Carmen Tubbesing, California Air Resources Board

A Prescription for Success? Using Remote Sensing to Measure Prescribed Fire Effects on Woody Shrub Encroachment in California's Coastal Prairie

(1:30 pm) Ian Cook, San José State University

Remote Sensing
SALON 4

Reconstructing the Mosquito Fire using pre-fire ALS

(1:55 pm) Sean Reilly, UC Berkeley

Assessing Burn Pile Volume and Emission Estimates using Retail-Grade LiDAR

(2:20 pm) Ashlyn Olah, UC Berkeley

2:45 pm **Social Break**

3:15 pm

Redefining Forestry
SALON 1

Australia and United States have many Similarities and Differences in Prescribed Fire Management: Learning from Each Other
(3:15 pm) Scott Stephens, UC Berkeley

Redefining Forestry: Cooperative Management in the Wildland Urban Intermix

(3:40 pm) Jason Wells and Genevieve Tarino, Sonoma County RCD

Reflections on Mediterranean-style Ecology: Intersections Between Mediterranean Climate Ecology and Development of International Policies

(4:05 pm) Sierra Standish, University of Colorado Boulder

Incorporating Variation into Estimates of Historic Forest Structure: A Novel Method Applied to California's Mixed-Conifer Forests

(4:15 pm) Derek Young, UC Davis



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Managing for Wildfires SALON 2

3:15 pm
(cont.)

Post-fire SALON 3

Workforce Training SALON 4

A Season of Change: Rx Burn Windows in California Forests
(3:15 pm) Carolyn van Mantgem, UC Berkeley

Protecting Planted Forests from Wildfire with Early Thinning and Winter Burning
(3:40 pm) Emily Cieslewitz, UC Berkeley

Painting the Landscape: Evaluating Ecological Silviculture Against Mixed-Severity Fire
(4:05 pm) Conor Phelan, University of Nevada Reno

Drivers of Conifer Regeneration in Successively Burned Areas in the Central Sierra Nevada
(3:15 pm) Saba Saberi, UC Davis

Nurse Shrubs Increase Post-fire *Pinus jeffreyi* Survival
(3:30 pm) Rosa Kirk-Davidoff, University of Nevada Reno

California's First Statewide Reforestation Strategy
(3:45 pm) Madeline Sides, USDA California Climate Hub

Post-Wildfire Soil Carbon and Nutrient Cycling: The Need for Standardization of Fire Metrics and Reporting of Soil Burn Severity
(4:00 pm) Julia Gaudinski, Wildfire Interdisciplinary Research Center

Impacts of Post-Fire Shrub Recovery on *Pinus jeffreyi* Recruitment Timing in Eastern Sierra Nevada Forests
(4:15 pm) Taylor Saunders, University of Nevada Reno

Leveraging Mobile GIS Deployments for Efficient Fuels Project Management at a Small and Highly Productive Non-Profit Organization
(3:15 pm) Sam Zabell, Yosemite Rivers Alliance

Enhancing the Forestry Training Pipeline
(3:40 pm) Forestry Mentorship Program

Post-Fire Forest Resilience: Engaging Landowners Through Online Education
(4:05 pm) Katie Reidy, UC Cooperative Extension

4:30 pm **Closing Remarks**
GRAND BALLROOM **Future of Symposium and SAF, CFPC, CFSC, Raffle Announcements**
Jeremy Zagarella (CA SAF), Danielle Lindler (CFPC), Scott Stephens (CFSC)

5:00 pm **Adjourn**



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