# STOP 3: POST-FIRE FOREST MANAGEMENT

*Ryan Tompkins, UCCE Plumas-Sierra Counties*

## STATEWIDE CONTEXT:

- Wildfire severity and patch size are increasing across dry mixed conifer forests in California. (Williams 2023)

- Landscapes dominated by snags and shrubs can be vulnerable to driving future high severity fire within the next 10-20 years. (Coppoletta et al. 2016) Landscapes dominated by high concentrations of dead fuels and high-density live stands can drive mass fire behavior not predicted by operational fire behavior models (Stephens et al 2022 on the Creek Fire). These trends are contributing to landscape scale forest loss. (Steel et al 2022).

- The Draft California Reforestation Strategy estimates that between 2019-2021 alone, high severity wildfire resulted in 1.7 million acres of type conversion from forest to non-forest types. The majority of this estimated reforestation opportunity (approximately 1.1 million acres) is on public lands. Between 2010 and 2020, the maximum annual rate of planting was approximately 35,000 acres in a year. At this rate it would take it would take over 30 years to replant 3 years of high severity wildfire.

## IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES FOR POST-FIRE FOREST MGMT:

- Reforestation of high severity fires is important for restoring forests and managing post-fire fuel loads.

- Plan for these areas to burn again. Resilient post-fire restoration includes a focus of fuels management and planning for drought.

- Investments in re-establishing forests need to include all the tools in the toolbox.

- Timing and responsiveness are important for ecologic outcomes and to mitigate economic loss.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
*(hover smartphone camera over QR code to open link)*



**Interventions to Restore Wildfire-Altered Forests in CA**



**Managing Fuel Profiles in High Severity Burns**



**Prioritizing Planting Effort & Heterogeneity in Reforestation**