

Plumas & Sierra Counties

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University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Annual Report 2023-24

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We are excited to share with you this report highlighting local impacts of UC Cooperative Extension in Plumas and Sierra counties! In the following pages we will highlight the many extension education, applied research, and community service projects completed by the UCCE team over the past year. We couldn't be more thankful for the opportunity to serve the communities in which we live. As always, our contact information is right on the front page and we encourage you to reach out with new emerging needs, to learn more about our existing programs, or to simply say "Hi" at anytime.

- David Lile, County Director

Our Team



Tracy Schohr is the Livestock and Natural Resources advisor. Schohr is conducting extension, education and applied research focusing on livestock production, water, economics, and sustainable range and pasture management. She is developing solutions to the complex issues facing land managers and livestock producers in the region.

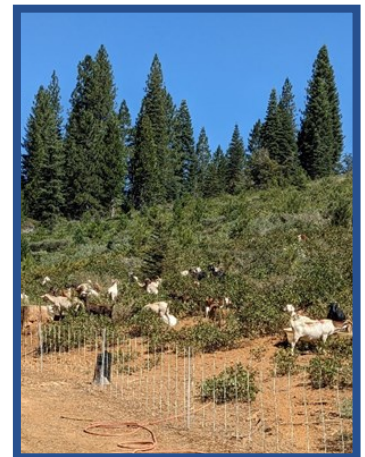


Post Fire Grazing

Schohr has wrapped up year 2 of 3 investigating variations in grazing distribution and utilization pre and post Dixie Fire. This project is integrating cattle GPS distribution data with on-the-ground forage monitoring in the Plumas National Forest. The outcomes of this project will guide land management policies and procedures, while assisting ranchers in grazing management that will improve natural resources following catastrophic fires. **Photo of GPS ear tag on cow.*

Grazing to Reduce Fuel Loads

Grazing for fuels reduction is an emergent strategy in California's efforts to address wildland fuels. With the sudden influx of public funding, it is urgent to answer the question of how to use available resources efficiently, and in a manner which develops a sustainable infrastructure to maintain treatments. Schohr is leading a project team implementing and evaluating fuels treatment with targeted livestock grazing in wildland urban interface (WUI). The team is also providing business planning for targeted livestock grazing enterprises and empowering land managers (private and public) to expand grazing contracts for fuel load reduction in forested landscapes.



Acquired funding and hosted 2 educational ranch tours for local and state government staff.



Collaborating on project investigating interaction of predators and livestock guardian dogs with GPS collars on Plumas Forest.



Hosted trainings and provided technical assistance on predator compensation, animal health, and more.

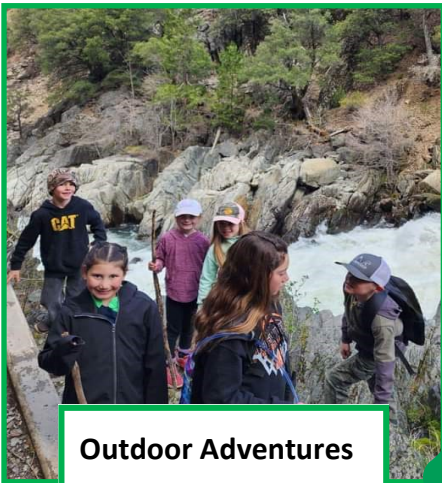
4-H Community Education Specialist, Sierra Washington, joined the UCCE team in July, 2022. She is inspired by how our 4-H youth become more confident, helpful, engaged members of our communities and take an active role in helping those around them thrive. Just look at 'em GrOw!



4-H County Presentation Day 2023-24



National Anthem at Homecoming



Outdoor Adventures
Woodworking



Petting Zoo for Skilled Nursing Residents

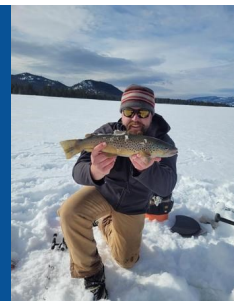


Club involvement is stable — continuing to serve more than 8% of our youth. To increase opportunity, we have initiated delivery modes through school enrichment and extended learning programs, and are lending curriculum development support. Our 4-H County Council is now fully represented by youth officers, who are developing a Leadership Field Day for 4-H youth in June. We are so excited for 4-H Summer Camp 2024!



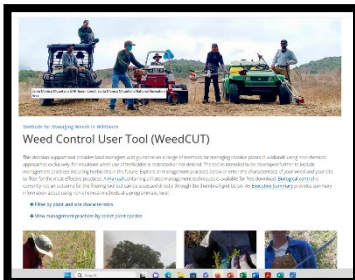
... Come share the 4-H Fun at the Plumas-Sierra County Fair!

Weed Ecology and Cropping Systems Advisor, Tom Getts, has been working with agricultural producers and land managers since 2015. His program focuses on providing insight to agronomic challenges and solving pest problems with IPM strategies throughout the intermountain region.



Agriculture and Forage Production

- Communication about control methods for various insect pest management methods. Monitoring and documenting grasshopper populations in additional parts of the county like Mohawk Valley.
- Conducting various irrigated grass and alfalfa variety trials, as part of a larger projects, which will be relevant to forage producers in Plumas and Sierra Counties.
- Providing growers information and advice regarding various weed control practices for their specific situations, as well as diagnosing and helping identify issues with plant diseases.
- Reviewing grower's fertilization recommendations for soil and tissue analysis done by the lab.
- Serving on the Department of Pesticide Regulation Pest Management Advisory Committee



Invasive Weed Management

- Conducting various research trials on better ways to control invasive and Noxious Weeds .
(e.g. Whitetop, Thistles, Annual Grasses, Scotch Broom etc.)
- Communication about pesticide use and risks in wildlands, agriculture, and in reforestation settings.
- Providing site specific recommendations and options for land owners and managers looking to control noxious weeds on their properties.
- Member and active participant of the Plumas Weed Management Area.
- Developing the interactive “Weed Cut” online decision support tool, and currently integrating chemical control and calibration methods into the program.
- Serving on the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s California Invasive Species Advisory Committee, representing local invasive pest issues at the state level.

Ryan Tompkins is the Cooperative Extension Forester and Natural Resources Advisor (RPF#3108). His research and extension program focuses on sustainable forest management and restoration, building community resilience to wildfire and climate change, and supporting rural natural resource-based community capacity development.



New pathways for reforestation and forest resilience

- Co-developed concept/proposal and advise the Plumas Emergency Forest Restoration Team (EFoRT): a coalition of local NGOs led by Feather River RCD securing over \$19 million of funding to deliver technical & funding assistance to forest landowners impacted by fires
- Co-PI on statewide post-fire resilience assistance program delivering education and outreach to landowners impacted by fire
- Co-PI on post-fire reforestation monitoring program for RCDs
- SNC Forest Health Grant: Collaboration with UC Berkeley Forests & Plumas NF to demonstrate science based forest management & restoration supporting the 30,000 acre Claremont Resiliency Project
- Forest Resilience Study: This work has been extended to the Calif. Board of Forestry to re-examine how Calif. Forest Practice Rules stocking requirements may or may not facilitate forest restoration



Connecting & advising natural resource managers, landowners, policy makers



- Cooperative Extension technical assistance events reached over 400 state, federal, and private natural resource managers and policy makers
- Hosted CA Board of Forestry Tour and weeklong Forestry for Lawyers workshop, providing insight and technical expertise to over 100 policy makers, state, federal, & private natural resource managers
- Presented to Society of American Foresters, California Licensed Foresters Association, & California Forestry Association conferences
- Developed & maintain the “Online Firewise Reporting Tool” documenting >28,000 volunteer hours & \$3 Million investments
- Forest Management instructor at UC Berkeley Forestry Camp
- Participate in Fire Safe Councils, Firewise Communities, Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES) & Prescribed burn associations (PBAs)

An expert voice in Forest Management, serving on:

- The Council on Science and Technology Project steering committee: “Linking Forest Health, Wildfire Smoke, and Public Health”
- Governor Newsom’s Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force: Science Advisory Panel & Statewide Reforestation Strategy
- American Forests Reforestation Pipeline Project steering committee designed to grow all aspects of the reforestation industry from cone, seed, nursery, & planting phases

Nic Dutch is a Staff Research Associate II for the statewide Post-fire Forest Resilience Program. Starting in January of 2023, they help forestry assistance agencies better understand and target post-fire reforestation projects, and work to build a broad awareness of post-fire restoration strategies and practices to managers and landowners.



Forging new pathways for reforestation and forest resilience

- Written, co-written, and facilitated numerous educational publications that serve as curriculum for our Post-Fire Forest Resilience Workshop, delivering education and outreach to landowners impacted by wildfire
- Supported program's workshop and served over 100 landowners and natural resource professionals
- Coordinated Planting Day outreach event in Greenville in May with Feather River RCD, presented our programs mission to over 40 volunteers
- Orchestrated an organized session at the Society of American Foresters Conference in October, with speakers from our program and our collaborators in the USFS, CALFIRE, and American Forests.
- Led fire effects monitoring training at Plumas TREX (Prescribed Fire Training Exchange)
- Serves on California's Reforestation Pipeline Working Groups: Addressing public misconceptions on forest restoration strategies and reforestation monitoring strategies
- Serves on the Forestry Mentorship Program Steering Committee



Expanding the Program's Strategic Direction

- Under the advisement of Co-PI Ryan Tompkins, initiated an investigation on the long-term efficacy of Emergency Forest Restoration Teams (EFRTs) post-fire reforestation projects via an ecological monitoring program
- Acquired over 300k in funding from our collaborators who are implementing the EFRT programs (El Dorado and Feather River RCDs)
- Conceptualized experimental design and protocol for the monitoring program
- Orchestrated working group on monitoring protocol with experts from, USFS, CAL FIRE, and UCCE with the aim to create a standardized post-fire reforestation monitoring framework and tracking database