

FamilyForestNews



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President's Message

Claire McAdams, FLC President



I want to begin my two-year term as FLC president by thanking all of you who have inspired me and helped me become familiar with FLC and its mission.

We are in a time of unprecedented uncertainty about the future of forestry in California, on the North Coast and inland. Only a handful of mills remain, especially on the North Coast; and markets are down in 2019, making it hard to do fire prevention of woods across the state. Trucking firms are closing, as diesel T4 rules kick in. California has shortages of registered professional foresters (RPFs) necessary for all commercial operations in forests. Forest appraisers are in short supply as the multi-year training deters college graduates already struggling with student loan debt. We have shortages of woods workers as skilled crews age out, and "alternative agriculture" beckons. And each summer now brings heightened threat of wildfire, as we know all too well.

And yet,

Optimists are saying how 'Someone will come up with a new large log mill.' Forestry students at Humboldt State University and elsewhere fill classes, and are urged to earn their RPF licenses. Community colleges are offering forestry tech education as part of a renewed focus on skilled trades. And redwood region tree-sitters in summer 2019 were largely urban youth from the Bay Area, not locals, who recognize improved forestry practices being used by even the largest industrial forest operations. And the State is focused on wildfire recovery, and to a lesser degree, fire prevention. In short, there are signs that forestry in California will continue. FLC will play a unique role, in promoting the needs and interests of small and non-industrial forest landowners.

To best protect California's forested landscape and its public from wildfire risk, good forest stewardship is taking new and more active shapes. Fuel reduction is being funded by the State to help prevent wildfire, and

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Forest Landowners
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President's Message

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prescribed fire cooperative groups are being formed. For small landowners, state funding is now available only through the CFIP program, limited as it is. FLC, along with foresters' and other industry groups, will be working to make the maximum possible funding available for non-industrial forest landowners, and your help will be needed.

FLC has been an advocate for small forest landowners as long as I can remember. My father was a FLC member, and his FLC newsletters from the 1970s show how enduring our legislative and regulatory challenges are. There is a traditional Jewish teaching that tells us that we must participate in our community; that it is not expected that we solve its needs in our lifetime, but neither can we ignore them and do nothing. FLC is my 'forestry community,' and has been since the decades when my family elders were helping me, my husband, and our son Ethan Luckens (a fifth generation owner), learn to love and care for our extended family's Humboldt County forest land. I would fly from Austin, Texas to attend FLC annual meetings and field days, seeing the passion that members, such as Jim and Betty Doerksen, had (and still have) for their forests. After we hosted a field tour/lunch at the Blue Lake annual meeting, I was asked to be a board member. I, a former college teacher, environmental/urban sociologist, Texas realtor/property manager, and NTMP partner, have enjoyed assignments such as chairing an annual meeting, generally becoming confident in speaking out on non-industrial forestry issues, and coming to see how fellow board members face each issue with intelligence, humor and civility.

In the years that I have been a FLC board member, I have seen a maturing of the relationship with ARC (Association Resource Center) with Deidre Bryant serving as our (most excellent) Executive Director. To better meet ongoing legislative challenges, FLC has stretched, financially, to hire and retain our Legislative Advocate, Brian White. This has let FLC "get a foot in the door" of legislators' offices, enabling our members to do effective 'citizen activism'. FLC has joined in effective coalitions with an array of other forestry-focused groups (California Licensed Foresters Association; California Farm Bureau; CalForests; The Buckeye; California Women in Timber, etc.). Aided by Larry Camp, our Legislative Chair, and Matt Greene, who "just keep turning up," listening and speaking up at Board of Forestry meetings; the Governor's Forest Management Task Force; legislator's offices; field tours for legislators; and in CalFire and other regulatory agency offices, on issue after issue, FLC now is seen as 'having a presence in the Capitol.' I invite you to join these efforts, to amplify our messages (and allow Larry to tend to his own forest property, and Matt to work with his clients) and continue our momentum, as issues close to your heart continue to emerge.

In closing, when you have questions, comments, and believe your association can serve you better, I'd love to hear from you. Please email me at president@forestlandowners.org, or call me at (707) 832-3181. I'll give you my best attention, as FLC wants and needs your input and frequent contact, to move forward, on behalf of all California non-industrial forest landowners. As president of FLC, I invite all FLC members to add your energies and skills to our efforts, and let me and the board hear what you need, and hope for, from FLC. And I thank you all in advance for all you do, with FLC, to strengthen and safeguard your forested lands, and build your friendships with other forest landowners, through FLC.

With your support, the best is yet to come.

Claire McAdams

Legislative and Regulatory Update

By Brian White, KP Public Affairs, and Larry Camp, Legislative Committee Co-Chair

The tables below summarize the final history of legislation that the FLC monitored during the 2019 legislative session and the Governor's approval/veto review.

Brian White and the Legislative Committee were successful in amending AB 454 and SB 69 to minimize the adverse impacts from language in the original bills. Use the following link to find out additional information about any bill of interest <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>. Please contact Larry Camp or Deidre Bryant if you have any questions.

2019 Legislation – Active Legislative Monitoring by Forest Landowners of California

Support	Oppose	Neutral	Now 2 Year Bills
SB 462 - Stern - Died	SB 1 - Atkins - Vetoed by Governor	AB 454 - Kalra - After amendments - Signed by Gov.	AB 144 - Aguiar-Curry
SB 535 - Moorlach - Died	AB 5 - Gonzalez - Signed by Governor	SB 378 - Wiener - Tax provisions dropped	AB 257 - Mathis
SB 632 - Galgiani - Signed by Governor			AB 343 - Patterson - Support
			AB 431 - Gallagher
			AB 490 - Salas
			AB 616 - Patterson - Support
			AB 833 - Dahle
			AB 1067 - Bigelow
			AB 1151 - Daly
			AB 1284 - Carrillo
			AB 1298 - Mullin
			AB 1375 - Bigelow
			AB 1690 - Flora
			AB 1778 - Boerner-Horvath
			SB 69 - Wiener - Neutral after amendments
			SB 515 - Caballero - Support

2019 Legislation – Watch with No Current Position by Forest Landowners of California

Assembly Bills
AB 38 - Wood; AB 1160 - Dahle; AB 293 - E. Garcia; AB 1516 – Friedman; AB 1823 - Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Assembly Bills Vetoed by the Governor
AB 296 - Cooley; AB 394 - Obernolte; AB 417 - Arambula
Assembly Bills Died in the Legislature
AB 247, AB 248 - Dahle; AB 235, AB 483, AB 915 - Mayes; AB 312 - Cooley; AB 409 - Limon; AB 572 - Kalra; AB 740 - Burke; AB 793 - Ting; AB 839 - Mullin; AB 933 - Petrie-Norris; AB 1167 – Mathis; AB 1276 - Bonta; AB 1299, AB 1388 – Flora; AB 1612 - Quirk
Senate Bills Signed by the Governor
SB 44 - Skinner; SB 190, SB 209, SB 247- Dodd; SB 395 - Archuleta
Senate Bills Died in the Legislature
SB 692 - Skinner; SB 45, SB 757 - Allen; SB 68, SB 133 Galgiani; SB 168 - Wieckowski; SB 502, SB 566 - Borgeas; SB 739 - Stern; SB 761 - Jones

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Growing Oak Trees

By Corrine Yoshihara

(Article reprint with permission from author)

Did you know that only one in 10,000 acorns grows into a mature oak tree?

If you want to grow trees from acorns, collect acorns in early fall as they are just starting to drop from the trees. Acorns are ripe when they turn from green to brown and detach easily from their caps. Select the healthiest acorns which are ones picked or shaken from the tree. Acorns on the ground and in the sun or with caps on are likely not viable. Select acorns that are uniformly brown in color, firm and intact with no holes or cracks. Wash the acorns in a container of water and discard those that float. Put damp acorns in closed Ziploc bags so they don't dry out and place in a refrigerator. Since acorns are alive and respiring, they generate heat so avoid storing too many together. Plant the acorns in the growing season following collection.

One important point to consider when planting oaks is the source of the acorns. Since local oak populations have adapted to their areas, it is best to collect acorns as close as possible to the intended planting site. Even oaks of the same species will vary in their genetic traits from site to site.

You may want to follow these steps to grow oak trees in containers prior to planting in the yard. Alternatively, you may choose to plant acorns directly in the ground.

Plant the acorns in deep narrow plastic pots. The acorns can grow in the small, deep pots for up to a year. Seedlings are transplanted to progressively larger-sized 14-inch deep, black pots where they can remain for a up to two more years before being planted in grow bags. The tap root is eliminated in the first container and a new one will grow straight down when planted in the ground later.

Jean prefers to grow trees in grow bags. Grow bags offer several advantages over plastic pots. The primary advantage is that the fabric of the bag discourages long, circling roots. When the large roots reach the fabric, the root tips dry out due to contact with dry air ("air pruning"). In response to this stop in growth other areas of the root send out many, fine roots resulting in fewer circling roots and a very fibrous root system. The finer roots are more efficient at water and nutrient uptake. If the grow bags are on top of soil or compost these fine root can grow through the bottom of bag to reach water and nutrients that have leached through the grow bag. Another advantage of grow bags is less root burn from heat. The roots at the edge of the bag do not burn from the sun's heat as they do in black plastic pots. Instead, roots at the periphery are cooled as water in the soil evaporates through the bag.

Tree size and water needs are easily accommodated with grow bags of different sizes. The trees are transferred to larger grow bags as they mature and are watered by irrigation lines for ten minutes twice a day. The water requirement for each tree is adjusted by emitter number and spacing.

Since young oak trees seem to pop up everywhere, you may be tempted to grow an oak by transplanting oak seedlings. Although this is an option, it is better to grow oaks from acorns than to dig up a small tree. Seedlings in soil quickly develop long tap roots (remember trying to pull them out?), which may be damaged in the process. If you want to transplant a seedling, Jean suggests doing so over a two-year period. In the first year, do a partial unearthing of the tree removing one half to three quarters of the soil around the roots and replacing the soil to allow the smaller roots to regenerate. Dig out the tree completely in the second year. Acorns seem more appealing and less work.

Oaks are beautiful trees that provide shade and support native wildlife. Before planting one, determine if you have the space and conditions for such a large and long-lived tree.

Article References: The first two links are University of California, the other two are University of Washington and University of Florida.

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/slomggarden/blogfiles/13336.pdf> (ref. collecting acorns, etc.)

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/bumper-crop-acorns-only-1-10000-grows-tree/> (ref. 1 in 10,000 acorns)

<https://depts.washington.edu/propplnt/Chapters/air-pruning.htm> (ref. air pruning)

<https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/documents/BMP-container-production.pdf> (ref. air pruning)

New Members

Please join us in welcoming new members (since January 2019).

James Bengard (Siskiyou County)
Jesse Brown (Nevada County)
Richard Dorn (Humboldt County)
Margie Gardner (Humboldt County)
Guenter Glueck (Lassen County)
Martin Grether (El Dorado County; Stephan Grether Family Member)
Stephan Grether (El Dorado County)
Richard Hawks (Humboldt County)
Bill Kinsinger (Tuolumne County; Chris and Lisa Van Hoven Family Member)
Mark Martinek (Shasta County)
Janet Murphy (Kern County; Ted Wyman Family Member)
L. Robert Prather (Lake County)
Martin Rau (Humboldt County)
Candace Raupach (Tuolumne County; Chris and Lisa Van Hoven Family Member)
Jack Rice (Humboldt County)
John and Bettie Shandel (Mendocino County)
David and Kathie Shoffner (Shasta County)
Rose Smith (Shasta County)
Dee Swanhuysen (Sonoma County)
Chris and Lisa Van Hoven (Tuolumne County)
Lisa Weger (Mendocino County)

Help Spread the Word

The FLC Membership Committee has been working on ideas to help promote the benefits of being a member of Forest Landowners of California (FLC). One of their efforts is promotional flyers that could be used to market FLC to neighboring forest landowners or to post on the bulletin boards of local community centers or grocery stores.

There are two versions available. You may click on the links below to view each flyer. If you would like some color flyers sent to you, contact Deidre Bryant at the FLC office, (877) 326-3778 or deidreb@forestlandowners.org.

Got Forest Flyer #1: <http://bit.ly/GotForest-1>

Got Forest Flyer #2: <http://bit.ly/GotForest-2>



Availability for Affordable Liability Insurance for Your Woodlands:

A Benefit of Forest Landowners of California Membership

Did you know that, as an FLC member, you are eligible for low-cost woodland owners' liability insurance? FLC, along with sister organizations of forest landowners in other states of the U.S., is an affiliate of the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA). The NWOA has long offered a "pooled" woodland liability insurance to its affiliates. Any size acreage is eligible. A simple one-page application form, and your annual payment, is all that is needed to protect your woodlands from the unexpected. Find more information, and how to apply, at the NWOA website (<https://woodlandowners.com/>), or in any quarterly issue of the very useful NWOA magazine, *National Woodlands*.

Contributors

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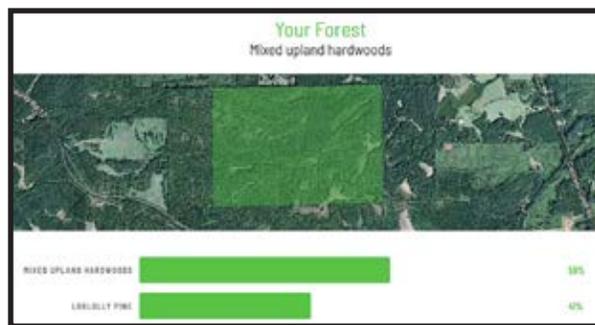
WoodsCamp: American Forest Foundation Reaches Out to Landowners

By Steve Wilent

(Article Reprint Permission: From *The Forestry Source*, September 2019. © The Society of American Foresters)

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is well known for its efforts to reach out to family forest landowners, with the main goal of helping them manage their forests well. AFF's My Land Plan website, for example, helps landowners create forest-management plans and obtain advice from professional foresters (mylandplan.org). Another avenue to connect with landowners, called WoodsCamp, is a free Web-based tool that helps landowners learn about programs, services, and professionals who can help them care for their land (woodscamp.com).

On the WoodsCamp website, landowners can navigate to a map showing the boundaries of their property, then click "See What You've Got." Within a few seconds, a second screen with "Wow, you have a beautiful forest" at the top displays a chart showing the tree species growing on the property. In this example, a parcel near Grass Valley, California, the chart indicated 60 percent ponderosa pine–Douglas fir stands, 39 percent Douglas-fir, and one percent "assorted species." Next, a landowner answers a few questions about his or her goals for the property and submits a request for a report. Within a few minutes, in most cases, a brief report is emailed to the landowner, providing information about management opportunities available on the parcel (such as restoring key tree species or protecting fish or wildlife habitat), how to contact a forester and obtain other services, and becoming a member of the American Tree Farm System. If landowners have questions about their report, they can connect with WoodsCamp staff via email, phone, or Facebook's Messenger service.



A portion of a WoodsCamp report about a forested parcel

WoodsCamp is available in four states: Alabama, Wisconsin, Oregon, and California (at this writing, for nine counties in the Sierra Nevada). AFF plans to make WoodsCamp available in other states in the near future.

In addition to promoting good forest stewardship, WoodsCamp helps landowners in each state address issues relevant to their location.

Alabama: Helps landowners understand and meet biodiversity

objectives, particularly in restoring longleaf- and shortleaf-pine forests, and using federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) grant funding to address water-quality issues.

Wisconsin: Helps landowners learn about the importance of migratory songbird habitat and regeneration of oak forests. "The results we've had in Wisconsin are so promising that we've been able to establish a cooperative agreement with the state's Department of Natural Resources. WoodsCamp now is available statewide as an entry point to local DNR service foresters and the whole range of program opportunities available in Wisconsin," said AFF forest technician and environmental planner Will Martin.

Oregon: Offers programs that help landowners reduce fuel levels and increase forest health and resilience to reduce the risk of wildland fire, a key focus area for the state.

California: As in Oregon, reducing wildland-fire risk is a high priority. So far, the program is available for nine counties in the Sierra Nevada. Martin notes, "We are also looking at how we can support the full value chain for landowners. We're offering transportation incentives [through a grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection] to help cover costs of transportation of woody material to markets."

WoodsCamp was developed independently of AFF by Martin and Alastair Jarvis, a woodland owner and former video-game company executive, who founded a WoodsCamp in Nova Scotia in 2015. Martin said they were inspired to "look at the family forest from a different angle, and how

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WoodsCamp: American Forest Foundation Reaches Out to Landowners

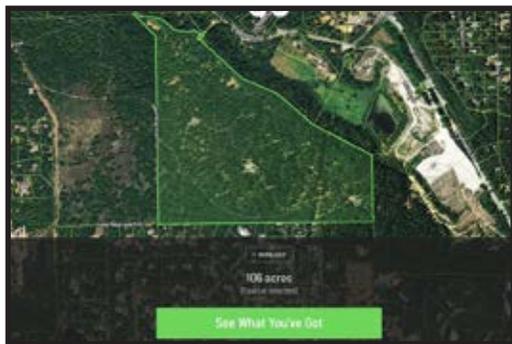
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we [could] help family forest landowners access services and resources that they need and access markets in a way that feels trustworthy and perhaps [is] more efficient.”

Although the company was founded in Canada, Martin says US forest landowners were always its intended market.

“In order to scale up WoodsCamp to make it available in the US, we needed a good partner. The work that the American Forest Foundation has been doing around family forest owner engagement, and [their] recognizing the critical role that family forest owners play in timber markets and the macro-conservation issues that we’re facing, made them a key partner for us,” he said.

WoodsCamp and AFF initially established a collaborative partnership, but in 2018, AFF acquired the company and brought its staff on board. Martin and Jarvis now work for AFF—Martin as senior director for WoodsCamp and special projects, Jarvis as vice-president for entrepreneurship and technology strategy. The US Natural Resources Conservation Service, the US Forest Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation are WoodsCamp partners.



On the WoodsCamp website, landowners can navigate to a map showing the boundaries of their property, then click “See What You’ve Got.” Within a few seconds, a second screen with “Wow, you have a beautiful forest” at the top displays a chart showing the tree species growing on the property. In this example, a parcel near Grass Valley, California, the chart indicates 60 percent ponderosa pine–Douglas fir, 39 percent Douglas-fir, and one percent “assorted species.” Next, a landowner answers a few questions about his or her goals for the property and can request a free report with more information.

The Importance of Family Forests

Martin notes that families and individuals collectively own more of the nation’s of the forestland than any other ownership category, including the federal government and corporations, and roughly half of the nation’s timber supply comes from these family forests.

“This is a critical pattern to recognize, whether you’re looking at economic issues, the wood supply and its sustainability, or at conservation challenges that are emerging such as biodiversity, wildfire, and so on,” he said. “Engaging family forest owners in these issues is vital—we’re not going to solve these problems unless we help family forest owners be part of the solutions.”

At the same time, the shifting characteristics of family forest ownership also are a challenge.

“Our own data and the [US Forest Service’s] National Woodland Owner Survey show that as many as 85 percent of family forest landowners are ‘unengaged’—that’s 85 percent of the landowner population that’s not even looking for forestry help. They’re not showing up at workshops, they’re not members of forestry associations, they don’t even know who to call. So the key for us is finding those folks and better understanding their values and needs and interests, and using WoodsCamp to initiate or reactivate their interest in managing the land and to create a pathway on which they can pursue their objectives.”

Martin and his colleagues at AFF are using social media and more-traditional communications channels to inform landowners about WoodsCamp.

“WoodsCamp is really designed as a landowner tool, and the user experience is deliberately simple,” said Martin. “What we’re advertising is the opportunity for landowners to discover the potential of their forest and programs and services that are going to meet their needs. Landowners can get good advice and technical assistance from independent foresters, and that’s a very powerful leverage point to get someone going on their stewardship journey.”

How You Can Make a Difference

Have you been wondering how you could make a difference? We have several opportunities. There are a few seats open to serve as a Director on the FLC Board of Directors. Join a dynamic group of individuals to serve the members in legislative advocacy, program planning and organizational governance. There are four committees you could join: Annual Meeting, Communications, Legislative and Membership.

Contact Deidre Bryant at (877) 326-3778 or deidreb@forestlandowners.org with your interest.

Ask a Forester - Fall 2019

Q. What are some of the projects I should be thinking about in the fall?

A. Fire is of prime concern here (as always) but another often overlooked concern is preparing your roads for winter rains. Recent winter storms have produced some spectacular rainfall events. To ensure your road surfaces don’t erode away, it’s time to inspect your road drainage system and make sure the rolling dips and water bars are sufficiently deep with the outlets cleaned out. Failure to do this oft-needed little chore can be very expensive in importing new road surface materials hiring contractors with the necessary equipment.

Connect with Other Forest Landowners on Facebook and Instagram!

A great place to read interesting articles, network with fellow forestland owners around the world!

Share information and stay current with FLC activities!

Check us out and "Like" our page!

Share with friends and family!

Help us build this new FLC resource!

Go to www.forestlandowners.org – on the home page click on the Facebook and Instagram images.



Member Spotlight: The Wyman Family in Tehachapi, California

By Denise Seghesio Levine

I visited Ted, Marie and Janet Wyman on a breezy, end of September Sunday afternoon in Tehachapi, California. While Marie held down the fort, Ted and Janet took me on an abbreviated tour of their family's more than 7,000 acre ranch in the Tehachapi Mountains.

We drove through lower elevations of gray sages, into a mix of evergreen and deciduous oaks and up into the towering Ponderosa and Jeffrey Pines. As we drove, Ted told me a little of the history of the property.

Ted's great grandfather originally made his way west from Ohio after the Civil War, arriving in California sometime around 1883 or 1884. Because Ted's great granddad had a limestone business and cement factory in Ohio, he naturally expanded his business into California. Together with his brother-in-law, they purchased land near La Jolla and Los Angeles and originally founded the Union Lime Company.

He purchased the Tehachapi property, a cement plant and quarry in Redlands and a quarry and plant in Fontana that was eventually sold to Kaiser Cement.

As evidenced by the strata of rock visible in cuts and the many huge boulders tossed about the landscape, this is a very geologically active area. Limestone deposits have been pushed up from the ocean floor, and kneaded and layered into the earth in thick ribbons, flecked with fossils and rich in the story of the earth's formation for those who can read the signs. Ted's great grandfather could read the signs.

On the Tehachapi property's, Summit Lime Company, limestone (Ca CO₃) was quarried, then burned in long stone kilns, and then hydrated. There were and are many commercial uses for lime. The Summit Lime Company was the major supplier for hydrated lime for whitewash and mortar for plaster and for the cement used for the aqueduct built in 1909 from Owen Lake to Los Angeles.

Railroads used it for ballast along the tracks and lime was also used for refining sugar. Long rows of railroad cars would regularly wind up the state to transport hydrated lime from Tehachapi to the CH Sugar Refinery in Crockett on the San Pablo Bay. Lime was also used for processing steel, purifying water and waste water and still has many other uses. Ted estimates almost a million tons of limestone a year was mined from the quarry while it was active.

Built by Chinese workers, the kiln was marvelously fabricated from stone on the property. Ted recounted that pieces of history had been pilfered from the intricately pieced rock kiln throughout the years. Between 1903 and 1910, embedded rocks engraved with dates and events were pulled from the edifice and removed. And changes continued as the years took their toll. Before the Tehachapi earthquake the kiln boasted four (4) stacks, now one remains.

The quarry was closed a little after the depression of 1932-33. When World War II started, the majority of the mining equipment and machinery was pulled from the ranch and dismantled for scrap metal for the war effort.

Moving on we passed mule corrals where mules were housed while the quarry operated. When snow covered the landscape, wagons so large they required four to six mules to haul limestone from the quarry to town and the kilns Summit Lime had built there to keep work going during the winter.



A View of Summit Ranch on Our Tour



Long Stone Kiln Where Limestone Was Burned

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Member Spotlight: The Wyman Family in Tehachapi, California

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The ranch is vast, but a cookhouse, corrals, cabins and remnants of different chapters of the ranch's history peek around corners.

Stands of oaks, pines and redwoods and even the denuded acres scarred by fires have their stories. The last fire came through in 2015. Some oaks will survive, but the pines did not make it. Ted doubts much of the forest will regenerate where the fires went through. There was Jeffrey pine timber on the east side, blue oak, black oak, California live oak, pinyon and most never reproduced after past fires. So the topography has changed quite a bit: 1,700 acres of first and second growth have burned and do not appear to be regenerating.

Although heavily treed, the ranch was not purchased for the timber. Timber was always an afterthought. Originally timber was used to fire the kilns for the limestone and wasn't considered for lumber. But this resulted in overcrowding in areas and the Ponderosa Pines are dense enough that at 5,500-6,000 feet, a 30-inch pine will take 160 years to grow.

In 1993, Ted was able to use a timber harvest plan in an area that partially burned and took out what he could... but the plan was thwarted and needed road work was stopped because of the regulations protecting salmon. Notable is that there are no salmon within a hundred miles??



Marie (on right) and Janet

There is a timber management plan for the property but years ago Kern County determined there was no significant privately held timber resources not owned by the state or feds, so there is no zoning in Kern County for timber, and consequently no mills.

Cattle still run, on the ranch. The Wymans have established a hunting club for hunters, a shooting range as well and have camping facilities for non-hunting visitors through HipCamp. The Wyman family also donated 600 acres to a park on the edge of the property.

In addition to stewarding and managing the ranch, the Wymans have additional divergent skills and talents. Among his other endeavors, Ted has an international background in engineering and designed major installations in far flung parts of the world. Janet was lucky to travel around the world with her dad during her school years, learning to ride horseback not on the dusty hills 6,000 feet above the Tehachapi valley, but stylishly side saddle in Saudi Arabia. Now a television producer in Southern California, Janet is next in line to take over management of the property. Ted introduced her to the successful deer hunter we ran into in camp as "the other boss."

As the wind picked up and the day grew darker, we drove back down the mountain and I was able to explore a little of Marie's world.

Beautifully pieced quilts drape chairs and sofas in all rooms. An organized sewing room houses her fabrics, threads, ironing boards. Marie was working on a quilt when we left for our tour, and was heading for the machine to finish a perfectly folded edge when we returned. When I admired a beautiful vintage style doll comfortably perched in a chair, Marie shared she had made the doll herself. She had learned the art while recovering from back surgery 40 years ago. A friend taught her the basics, but before long, Ted bought her a kiln and Marie was on her own. Doll making includes making and firing porcelain molds for the body and head, meticulously painting the delicate faces and hands, crafting and styling the hair and finally designing and sewing the rich vintage costumes. Marie can do it all. Her dolls are available to visit by appointment.



Hunt Camp



One of Marie's Handmade Dolls

Getting and Keeping Forest Property Insurance in California: In the New Wildfire-Aware Era

(What we know so far, as of November 1, 2019)

This article is part one of a series of articles.

By Claire McAdams

October's California wildfires highlight how the world now sees northern California as a dangerous place, and the last three years' of catastrophic wildfire losses, have changed our ability to secure and keep all types of insurance for our forestlands.

The days of obtaining homeowners' coverage for dwellings, general liability for forestlands, and excess liability, in one simple package from a California "admitted" insurance company, are over.

In the past, coverage for forestland, as opposed to coverage for forestland co-located with productive ranch, range and farmland, was available and less costly. Now, owning forests, alone, is viewed as the greater risk and the more expensive and so less likely to be able to be covered. Today, timberland will be covered by a separate carrier, potentially at more cost.

Efforts underway to mitigate the risk of forest fire in California include use of prescribed fire on over-dense forests and fuel reduction (grinding of timber harvest slash, pre-commercial thinning, brushing/delimiting to reduce ladder fuels). Yet insurers, concerned with wildfire risk, have implemented changes to underwriting standards and methodology, which is newly reliant on company-specific fire risk mapping zones.

The University of California Cooperative Extension is working with volunteer groups such as Humboldt County Burn Council to promote and teach prescribed fire, as one way to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Some forest owners now grind their timber harvest slash or even do fuel reduction (pre-commercial thinning, or general brushing and limbing to reduce fuel laddering) separate from timber harvest work. Each method physically reduces fire risk in forestland. However, our insurance rates are set by national-level actuaries. At present, insurers' underwriters do not factor in the prescribed fire groups' work, or fuel reduction efforts, into their assessments of property fire risk. Brian Slayton, an agent of Judy Davis Insurance Services in McKinleyville, CA, says that insurers' underwriters will not respond to individual landowners' efforts to lessen their own fire risk – either through prescribed fire, or through fuel reduction -- until underwriters can confirm a new trend of decreased fire claim rates for properties that use prescribed fire or proactive fuel reduction. This will take years.

When my own family's forestland faced recently faced "non-renewal" of our long-standing policy, despite our never having filed a claim, I quickly learned several things.

- 1) Agents vary in their skills in searching the markets, especially in seeking out the non-regulated markets, and requesting bids from multiple companies.
- 2) The old means of property fire risk ranking according to fire line score, along with many other variables, are no longer being used.
- 3) Insurance companies use company-specific maps to determine properties' fire risk, based on many factors of which location and fire loss history weigh heavily. Creative and diligent agents can take the time to search for insurers whose maps locate one's forestland in less-than-high-fire risk categories. This makes a difference for properties that happen to be placed in different fire risk categories, by different insurers. But a wise agent will research the maps of different companies, to find the most advantageous for your forestland location.

When my family's forest was 'non-renewed,' I quizzed other local forestland owners, as to who they considered the most capable agents to be, then contacting more than one independent agent, and seeing which ones did the most diligent research in order to find new insuring companies. For us, the best agents took a strategy of using separate insurers for homeowners' coverage, forest general liability, and excess liability. For instance, Nationwide covers the homeowners' insurance (for primary homes, not secondary homes or rental properties), and gives a discount to Farm Bureau voting members, making my \$200 annual Farm Bureau membership, which gives voting membership, very worthwhile. Nationwide also covers ranches, but not forests.

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Getting and Keeping Forest Property Insurance in California

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So our forest general liability was provided by a “non-admitted” or “surplus lines” insurer.

These companies’ state-mandated disclosure California Notice-2012 explains:

1. The insurance policy that you have purchased is being issued by an insurer that is not licensed by the state of California. These companies are called “non-admitted” or “surplus line” insurers.
2. The insurer is not subject to the financial solvency regulation and enforcement that applies to California licensed insurers.
3. The insurer does not participate in any of the insurance guarantee funds created by California law. Therefore, these funds will not pay your claims or protect your assets if the insurer becomes insolvent and is unable to make payments as promised.
4. The insurer should be licensed either as a foreign insurer in another state in the United States or as a non-United States (alien) insurer. You should ask questions of your insurance agent, broker, or “surplus line” broker or contact the California Department of Insurance at the following toll-free telephone number 1-800-927-4357. Ask whether or not the insurer is licensed as a foreign or non-United States (alien) insurer and for additional information about the insurer. You may also contact the NAIC’s website at www.NAIC.org.
5. [for foreign insurers]...obtain more information about that insurer.
6. [for alien insurers]...obtain more information about that insurer.
7. California maintains a list of approved surplus line insurers. Ask your agent or broker if the insurer is on that list, or view that list at the website of the California Department of Insurance: www.Insurance.CA.gov.
(California Department of Insurance, Notice 2012).

Going forward, forestland owners insured by non-admitted or surplus lines companies will have to remain vigilant that one’s insurer does not become financially insecure or insolvent during one’s policy period. Although the admitted insurers are avoiding California forestland coverage, my family was able to at least get the coverage we need, using non-admitted companies. Surprisingly, taking this extra risk has resulted in “holding the line” in our overall insurance costs, rather than the steep price increases that we had been warned to expect.

While it will always be crucial for forest landowners to pursue defensible space measures for their dwellings/structures, and fuel reduction measures for their forest lands, property/liability insurers are not likely to reward you with a better rate, or even be willing to cover you, no matter your property’s individual actual fire history. Rural fire department response times are slow, and the fire rating charts have changed, and will continue to change. Unless and until California’s wildfire crisis abates, good stewardship by forest landowners will help save your life and your forestlands, but it may no longer be rewarded with the “privilege” of steady continued ‘admitted’ insurance coverage for your forest lands.

And unfortunately, blind loyalty to one’s insurance agent is no longer wise. Consider seeking out diligent independent agents who have the most experience obtaining forestland insurance in your geographic locale, and who prove willing to go the extra mile to research whether a diversified bundle of separate insurance companies can provide the coverage that your forestland and its dwellings/structures need.

Time to Renew Your Commitment

This is the time of year that we reach out to you for continued support through membership renewal. Membership dues statements were mailed on December 19. For questions, please contact Deidre Bryant, at the FLC office, (877) 326-3778 or deidreb@forestlandowners.org. We look forward to your continued support of programs and services in 2020.



McAdams Lands LP, Claire McAdams 2019 Tree Farmer of the Year

Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year recognizes tree farmers who have done an exceptional job of forest management on their properties and an outstanding job of promoting sustainable forestry. Dan Cohoon, Able Forestry Consultants, nominated McAdams Lands LP, Claire McAdams for 2019. A field day tour and presentation took place on the tree farm on August 17, 2019 and it was obvious to all who attended why this property was selected as the 2019 recipient.

It was a beautiful day on the coast with mad- to-order weather for a field day in the Redwoods. Through introductions we had a varied group, tree farmers, foresters, public agency personnel and a few members of the general public who we always welcome. Claire had put together a presentation on the history of the property and the challenges of keeping the forest intact and working. Photographs showing the condition of the project sites before implementation gave everyone a reference point to work from once in the field.

After a short hike from the house we entered an old once overgrown apple orchard that elk have been using as a calving area. The area had been completely choked with brush and nearly impossible to penetrate. With the help and expertise of the National Fish and Wildlife service the area was cleared and debris shredded and blown back on site. Apple trees that were still producing were left as forage. A local forester has collected scion from these trees in attempt to determine heritage. Now this is referred to as the "elk nursery." The elk seem to appreciate the variety of wildlife improvements throughout the property as the herd has increased from 15 to more than 100!



The group learning about the McAdams tree farm forest management practices.



Lois Kaufman (on left) presents the McAdams family with the Tree Farmer of the Year Award.



Claire discussing one piece of equipment on the property.

Next we hiked over to a new project Claire's son Ethan is starting, an old growth redwood slab milling operation. He recently bought a used Peterson winch production frame mill to cut old growth butt logs and stumps for the fine woodworking market. It was common practice in the early days to leave these pieces in the woods and not at all uncommon to find them on the property. They also mill up wood for use on the property. Always looking to use existing infrastructure the mill is set up on an old concrete slab foundation that used to support a trailer. Kurt McCray, CalFire Unit Chief, explained the necessary state permitting requirements for such operations on private lands.

Back up to the house for a buffet lunch of cold cuts, salads, fruit and a wonderful blackberry cobbler. Everything was artfully arranged by a friend of Claire's on recycled glass serving dishes and hand turned wooden bowls. If you went away hungry it was your own fault.

Bob Rogers, awards chairman for the California Tree Farm Committee, gave a brief outline of our selection process for Tree Farmer of the Year. It was an easy decision with a unanimous vote by the committee. Dan Cohoon, nominating forester, outlined how the property is sustainably managed and SFC and ATFS third-party certified and how they have helped build public awareness of how key it is that small family forests be economically viable enough that they can be well managed.

Special emphasis was put on Claire's advocacy work for small forest landowners. She volunteers in groups advocating for forestry issues: from the local North Coast Women in Timber, The Buckeye, Forest Landowners of California, California Tree Farm System, California Licensed Foresters Association, National Woodland Owners Association, and the American Forest Foundation. She has also attended the Tree Farmer Fly-in in Washington DC representing not only California but Texas too. The family has hosted field tours for the Forestry Institute for Teachers, to allow them to see what active forest management looks like, so they can more truthfully educate students throughout California. We should all take a page from her play book and become more engaged in the advocacy of small non-industrial landowners. We all would rather be working on our lands than roaming the halls at the Capitol or sitting in a meeting room. Our message is powerful and we need more landowners like Claire out in front of the crowds.

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Understand and protect your Forest by creating a Forest Management Plan

Whether you own a few acres of forest or hundreds, there is a lot to know to manage your forest to reduce the risk from drought, wildfire, and insects. Attend a Forest Stewardship Workshop this fall. Cost is \$50 per participant.

WHY should I attend a Forest Stewardship Workshop?

- LEARN** about forests and their management
- COLLECT** information about your forest
- DEVELOP** a forest management plan
- APPLY** for state and federal cost share assistance
- CONNECT** with other landowners and forestry practitioners



WHAT will I learn about?

- Forest management objectives and planning
- Forest restoration
- Fuels reduction
- Project development & Permitting
- Cost-share opportunities

HOW will I learn these concepts?

- ATTEND** a three-day workshop
- INVENTORY** your forest
- WRITE** your own management plan
- REVIEW** your plan with a Registered Professional Forester



Hosted by: The workshops will be organized by the University of California Cooperative Extension in collaboration with: CAL FIRE, Forest Landowners of California, USFS Region 5, the American Forest Foundation, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, and the California Fire Safe Council.

For more information: Check out the workshop webpage at <http://ucanr.edu/forestryworkshops/> or call Kevin Conway at (530) 339-0286 to subscribe to the workshop mailing list.



Forest Stewardship Education Initiative is a CAL FIRE funded contract (8CA04547), awarded July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021, to the University of California Cooperative Extension to help landowners develop forest management plans.

McAdams Lands LP, Claire McAdams 2019 Tree Farmer of the Year

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With renewed enthusiasm and full stomachs we loaded into vehicles and headed over to the south end of the property so see an active pre-commercial thinning done under a California Forest Improvement Program. The redwood stand is 18 years old, overstocked and damaged by bear. Bear stripping redwood is a learned behavior and a major problem in the area. Most of the damage occurs in the spring prior to emergence of preferred food and the fastest growing trees with the highest sugar content in the cambium layer are stripped near the top. Lively discussion revolved around the difficulty of acquiring deprecation permits. Although not feasible in a commercial stand some landowners are wrapping barbed wire or carpet tack stripping around the bole of selected landscaping redwoods. Not the most attractive but proving to be effective.



Group photo of those who attended.

It was a great day in the woods with much positive feedback from the participants. The couple public members commented that they only knew one person there but every person made the effort to include them in the conversation. They went away with a much better understanding of the role family forest landowners play in sustainable forestry. That understanding needs to be spread more often.



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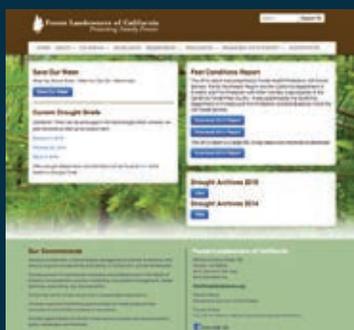
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FLC Website— News You Can Use

The website includes a page titled, "News You Could Use." It features current drought updates, other water saving resources and the California Forest Pest Conditions Report for the last three years, which includes the latest 2015 report.

If there is information you would like to see on this page or if there are other areas where the website could be expanded, please contact Deidre Bryant at the FLC office – (877) 326-3778 or deidreb@forestlandowners.org. We look forward to adding content that is valuable to our forest landowner members.



Calendar of Events

These calendar activities are also located on FLC's interactive calendar on the website. Click on the Calendar menu for other details, such as registration information, etc.

January 11, 12 and 25

California Forest Stewardship Workshop
University of California Cooperative Extension
Office, Ukiah, CA
More Info & Registration https://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/Forest_Stewardship/Forest_Stewardship_Workshops/

January 24, 2020

FLC Board of Directors Meeting
FLC Office (Folsom, CA)

February 1, 2 and 8

California Forest Stewardship Workshop
Mulford Hall, University of California,
Berkeley, CA
More Info & Registration https://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/Forest_Stewardship/Forest_Stewardship_Workshops/

March 7, 8 and 14

California Forest Stewardship Workshop
Room 1213, Shasta College, Redding, CA
More Info & Registration https://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/Forest_Stewardship/Forest_Stewardship_Workshops/

July 24, 2020

FLC Board of Directors Meeting
Board Member's Home

November 20, 2020

FLC Board of Directors Meeting
Board Member's Home



Forest Landowners of California
is a proud sponsor of the
California Tree Farm Committee.