

# Plumas & Sierra Counties

[ucce-plumas-sierra.ucanr.edu](http://ucce-plumas-sierra.ucanr.edu)

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC  
CE



## Annual Report 2021-22

**David Lile, County Director**  
530-251-6673 - [dfile@ucanr.edu](mailto:dfile@ucanr.edu)

**Tracy Schohr, Livestock and Natural Resources**  
916-716-2643 *cell* - [tkchohr@ucanr.edu](mailto:tkchohr@ucanr.edu)

**Ryan Tompkins, Forestry and Natural Resources**  
530-283-6125 - [retompkins@ucanr.edu](mailto:retompkins@ucanr.edu)

**Kari O'Reilly, 4-H Program Representative**

**Tom Getts, Weed Control and Cropping Systems**  
530-251-2650 - [tjgetts@ucanr.edu](mailto:tjgetts@ucanr.edu)

**Samantha Brown, Administrative Assistant**  
530-283-6270 - [smgbrown@ucanr.edu](mailto:smgbrown@ucanr.edu)

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. It's obviously been a challenging year between the fires, drought, and on-going Covid restrictions, but our dedicated staff is engaged at every step. 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.

We also anticipate adding a new Cooperative Extension advisor in Plumas/Sierra office focused on Community Economic Development and Disaster Resilience. This position will compliment our existing team and increase the capacity of our partners throughout the area ([Jobs - Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources \(ucanr.edu\)](https://ucanr.edu/jobs)).

David Lile, County Director



## Master Gardener Program

The Plumas/Sierra group of Master Gardeners is an enthusiastic cadre of volunteers, trained by UCCE, who advise and provide technical support to backyard gardeners



4-H Community Education Specialist, Kari O'Reilly has been working with youth in Plumas and Sierra Counties for seven years. COVID 19, Dixie Fire and Beckwourth Fire posed significant challenges this year but our local 4-H program continued delivering program and keeping kids connected.



### Camp

Lower Buck's Lake was home to the 2021 week long - day camp. Our 4-H summer camp was an opportunity for youth to expand their knowledge, enjoy the outdoors, build friendships and have fun!



### County Events

Plumas-Sierra 4-H hosted it's a Virtual Presentation Day! 4-H members honed their public speaking skills by delivering presentations via Zoom.



### Kids Day Camp

Following the Dixie Fire, 4-H hosted day camps for youth to come together for fun in light of all the challenges. This event also allowed parents time to focus on their needs.



### Livestock Projects

Youth livestock producers overcame numerous challenges, and were rewarded at the highest revenue generating livestock sale.

*Thank you Kari!*



We are appreciative of your commitment to 4-H. Under your leadership we have seen you support traditional 4-H programs, craft new 4-H connections and revitalize camp, making it huge! Your kindness and patience has helped members grow. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of members, their families, volunteers and our community. We wish you the best in your future as you continue to help youth!

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.



### Sustainable Forest Management and Restoration:

- SNC Forest Health Grant: Collaboration with UC Berkeley Forests & Plumas NF to demonstrate science based forest management & restoration
- [Pyrosilviculture Research](#): Leveraging forest management and wildfires to meet restoration goals and post-Dixie Fire strategies
- [Forest Resilience Study](#): Quantifying the ecological need for lower density forests (Recently presented to Calif. Board of Forestry & Fire Protection)
- [Policy Research on tracking California's 1 million acre goal](#): Establishing first multi-jurisdictional statewide baseline for forest management & restoration
- Serve on Governor Newsom's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force: Science Advisory Panel & Reforestation Working Group

### Building community resilience to wildfire & climate change:

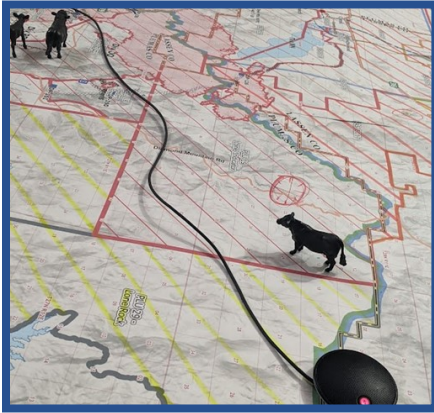
- Co-developed concept/proposal for Plumas Emergency Forest Restoration Team (EForT): a coalition of local NGOs securing \$10.5 million of funding to deliver technical & funding assistance to forest landowners impacted by fires
- [Post-fire fuels treatment study](#) on managing fuel profiles in high severity fires
- Supported establishment of 5 new Firewise communities in Plumas/Sierra
- Developed [Online Firewise reporting tool](#) documenting >15,000 volunteer hours & \$1.5 Million of Firewise investments in Plumas & Sierra Counties
- Co-developed PCFSC [Wildfire Preparedness event](#) in May 2021 with home hardening workshop and wall burning demonstration
- Co-authored two wildfire policy opinion articles on [Moving beyond the war on wildfire](#) and [the New Federal Wildfire Plan](#)



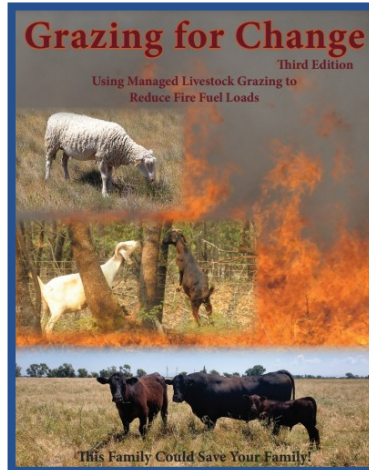
### Support rural natural resource-based community capacity:

- Collaborated on the [Venado Declaration to Keep our Forests](#): A call to action from California scientists, land managers, and former government leaders
- Hosted 2 Plumas-Sierra Stakeholder Exchanges with land management professionals
- Collaboration with Public Policy Institute of California on [How to pay for headwaters forest management?](#) Policy blog series
- Supported Sierra Business Council's [Balance & Biomass: A Solution to Emissions, Catastrophic Fire, & Communities in Crisis](#)
- Forest Management instructor at UC Berkeley Forestry Camp
- Supported Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)

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 commercial livestock producers in the region.



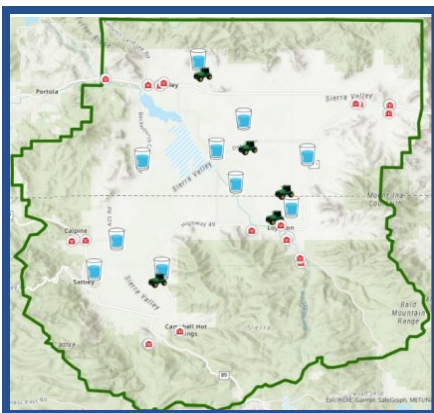
During the Dixie and Beckwourth Complex Fires worked with incident command teams and local government staff to coordinate the care and evacuation of commercial livestock within fire zones.



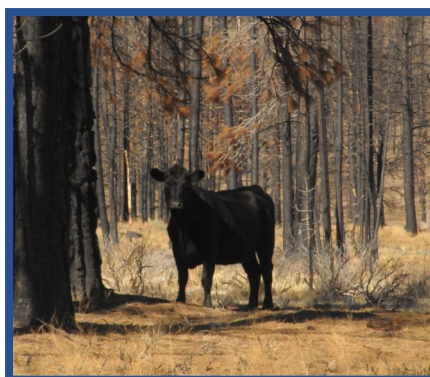
Managed the creation of "Grazing for Change," a publication highlighting the value of livestock grazing to manage landscapes and reduce fire fuel loads.



Launched new project across region to investigate impacts of drought on annual livestock forage production. This information will inform livestock producers and government disaster relief programs.



Conducted a study illustrating groundwater quality in Sierra Valley. Groundwater District used results to reduce future monitoring costs.



Continued Post-Walker Fire research on meadow response to fire and grazing. Also, provided post-fire technical assistance to ranchers and local federal agency staff.



Hosted trainings and provided technical assistance to ranchers on drought strategies, land management, animal health, regulatory compliance, and more.

Weed Ecology and Cropping Systems Advisor, Tom Getts, has been working with agricultural producers since 2015. His program focuses on providing insight to agronomic challenges and solving invasive weed problems throughout the intermountain region. (And fishing at Almanor on his days off!)



UC Advisors are available in person and over the phone to provide technical information for local producers to diagnose fertility and pest problems.

## Outreach

### Contact Information

Tjgetts@ucanr.edu

530-251-2650



UC works to organize and contribute to educational workshops to address issues relevant to producers in Plumas and Sierra counties.



Weed control trials to demonstrate the effectiveness of newly registered herbicides are conducted regionally to provide non-biased information for producers.



Research is being conducted to help improve agricultural irrigation efficiency, minimize water stress, and quantify how much water is applied.



Invasive weeds are problematic for all land owners. Research is being conducted to better control invasive weeds with both chemical and biological options.