

## YEAR 10–20 FIRE MAINTAINS YOUR WORK

### Management

- Fire will return, either as wildfire or prescribed fire.
- Ensure your forest management aligns with your long-term goals.
- Each landowner has different goals for forest management - make sure you're tracking towards yours

## RESOURCES

Butte County Resource Conservation District - [bcrd.org](http://bcrd.org)

UC Cooperative Extension - [ucanr.edu](http://ucanr.edu)

California Native Plant Society - [cnps.org](http://cnps.org)

Butte County Fire Safe Council - [buttefiresafe.net](http://buttefiresafe.net)

Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council - [yankeehillfiresafe.org](http://yankeehillfiresafe.org)

### Disclaimer

This timeline provides a general overview of post-fire forestry management considerations. However, the severity of the fire on individual properties and landscapes can significantly influence management goals, objectives, timing, and decisions. While this is a broad outline, it is recommended to consult with a Registered Professional Forester to develop a tailored post-fire management timeline for your property.



# Post-Fire Ecology: A Recovery Timeline



## YEAR 1: HEAVY LIFT

### Safety & Hazard Mitigation

- **Remove hazard trees** for safety around home sites, roads (public and private), and public infrastructure.
- Protect your roads, particularly water crossings and road drainage structures. Pile, chip, and collect dead and downed wood to create **erosion control** structures. Pile and burn excess material.

### Reforestation & Ground Cover

- Identify new or non-native plants.
- Avoid reseeding grasses and forbs in the first 1-2 years to allow natural recovery.
- Monitor woody plants for survival and manage resprouting species.

### Land Care

- Manage invasive species (e.g., broom) and implement erosion control.
- Repair road structures and adapt culverts to anticipate increased (flood risk/water flow).
- Monitor areas with accumulated surface fuels. Consider broadcast burns (**prescribed fire**) in areas that did not burn at high severity.
- **Grazing** can be a tool for fuels reduction, depending on your lands response to fire.

## YEAR 2 –5: GROWTH SPURT

### Tree & Forest Health

- Evaluate hardwoods and conifers for risks like bark beetles, root damage, stem decay, and drought mortality.
- Address isolated or clumped trees susceptible to windthrow and uprooting.

### Planning For Growth

- Decide on future forest composition (e.g., mixed conifer, hardwoods like maple and oak near streams).
- Planning structure: site assessment, acquire seedlings, site preparation, vegetation management, planting, pre-commercial thinnings, and upkeep.
- Train hardwood leaders (prune to 2-4 strongest trunks when trees reach 4 feet tall). A planted stand is a long-term investment that needs monitoring and maintenance over time.
- Acquire seeds to fill gaps if needed but, native grasses, yarrow, and flowering plants re-establish naturally.
- Space brush species into clumps/mosaics to maintain habitat.

### Pretreatment for Prescribed Burns

- Use mastication, lop and scatter, pile burning, biomass removal, pruning, or raking to prepare areas for future burns.
- Maintain low fuel volumes to keep fire intensity low. Clear fuels around the residual trees to minimize risk.

## YEAR 6–10: STEWARDSHIP

### Prescribed Fire & Habitat Management

- Introduce prescribed or cultural fire to stewarded areas.
- Leave small untreated areas for habitat (nature nooks, brush mosaics).

### Maintenance

- Continue hardwood leader training.
- Monitor growing vegetation and thin overstocked conifer areas.

