



# **PLUMAS & SIERRA COUNTIES**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2024**



# OUR TEAM

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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As the new UC Cooperative Extension Area Director for Plumas and Sierra counties I'm proud to present our 2023-2024 annual report. The report aims to highlight UCCE local extension education, applied research, and community service projects completed by the Plumas Sierra team over the past year. Our academic advisors, educators, staff, and volunteers are dedicated to delivering high-quality research-based educational programming throughout our counties. Through strong local connections and collaborations, we strive to meet the specific needs of the communities where we live and work. Feel free to reach out anytime to learn more about our programs.

Sincerely,  
Michele Fisch

# LIVESTOCK & NATURAL RESOURCES

Tracy Schohr



## IRRIGATED PASTURE ENHANCEMENT

Established a 15 acre demonstration site to showcase the benefits of interseeding to improve irrigated pastures.



## PASTURE HEALTH ASSESMENT

Conducted Sierra Valley pasture forage and soil assessment to inform best management practices in the region.



## AGRICULTURAL SUCCESSION PLANNING

Hosted session to promote the development and refinement of succession plans that are crucial for preserving family relationships, and ensuring long-term viability of farms and ranches.



## RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Continuing on long term research projects that support sustainable public lands grazing, post-wildfire rangeland management strategies and drought resiliency.



## DISASTER PLANNING

Coordinated disaster preparedness and wildfire safety trainings in Plumas and Sierra Counties, qualifying 49 ranchers for Ag Disaster Access Passes.



## RESEARCH TO POLICY

Conducted survey of ranchers and farmers to captures impacted from wildfire. Created policy brief to improve USDA disaster assistance programs.



# WEED CONTROL & CROPPING SYSTEMS

Tom Getts



## PEST MANAGEMENT

Research and education focused on insect and weed management. Grasshoppers continue to be problematic, and effort was focused on extension of blister beetle information and monitoring in hayed systems.



## IRRIGATED CROP PRODUCTION

Extension of information to producers on variety selection, soil sampling, soil test interpretation, and irrigation management.



## INVASIVE WEED RESEARCH

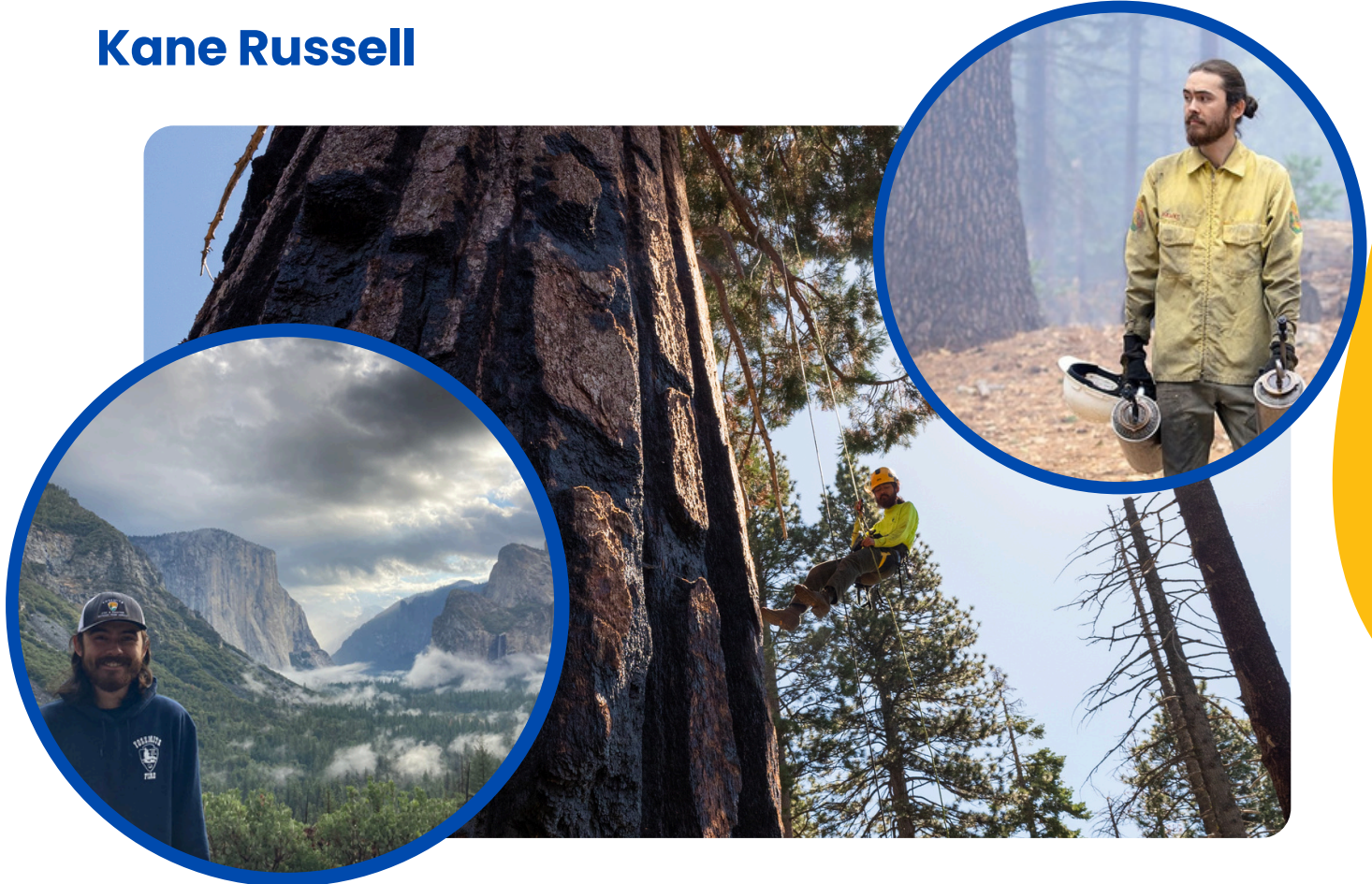
Continued research on control options for potentially herbicide resistant perennial pepperweed in Sierra Valley. Also, investigating integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for goathead control in landscapes with and without herbicides.





# FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Kane Russell



Kane joined the team in January 2025 as the forestry and natural resources advisor for Plumas, Sierra, and Lassen counties. Kane earned his bachelor's and master's degree in forestry from UC Berkeley. His graduate work analyzed the effects of prescribed burning on young Sierra Nevada mixed conifer stands. Post-graduation, he conducted forestry research at Berkeley's Blodgett Forest Research Station. Prior to joining UCCE, Kane worked as a forest ecologist at Yosemite National Park, where he helped manage a mechanical fuels reduction program to protect the park's iconic landscapes from high-severity wildfire. Originally from Monterey, CA, Kane's first introduction to the Sierra Nevada was at Berkeley's forestry camp in Meadow Valley. He is excited to return to the place that sparked his passion for forestry and looks forward to working with and learning from the many devoted people and organizations in the region.

## Goals for 2025:

- Conduct a needs assessment to identify most pressing forestry and fire issues for community members.
- Begin building a research and extension program based on assessment findings in collaboration with local partners.



# POST-FIRE FOREST RESILIENCE

## Nic Dutch, Staff Research Associate II

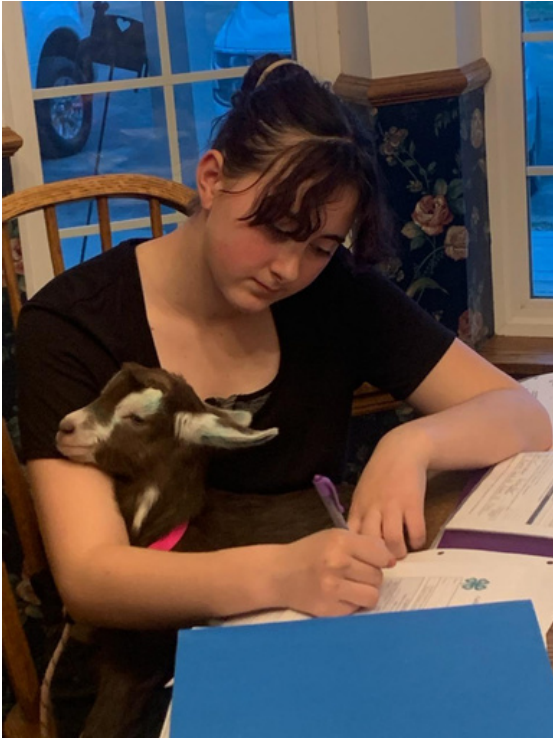
Based in Quincy, Nic is an integral member of the **statewide Post-Fire Forest Resilience Program**, co-initiated by the late Ryan Tompkins. Through Spring 2026, Nic's work supports forestry agencies in targeting post-fire reforestation and raising awareness of effective restoration strategies among managers and landowners.



- Wrote 5 new educational publications for the Post-Fire workshop series  
View them: <https://ucanr.edu/post-fire-resources>
- Spearheads the **Reforestation Effectiveness Monitoring** project for the Dixie and Caldor Fired Emergency Forest Restoration Teams (EFRTs), in partnership with Feather River and El Dorado RCDs: <https://ucanr.edu/reforest-monitor>
- Serves on CA Reforestation Pipeline's Reforestation Monitoring Working Groups
- Presented at CARCD Reforestation Camp, Plumas TREX, Feather River College
- Working towards their master's in Geospatial Information Systems at UCLA



# 4-H PROGRAM



## 2023-2024 STATS

- Volunteers 68
- Youth Enrolled 207
- Plumas County 4 Clubs
- Sierra County 3 Clubs



## 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Community Suppers
- Presentation Day
- Fair-Jr Livestock Auction
- Events for summer being planned



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