

## A Comprehensive Guide to Fuel Treatment Practices for Mixed-Conifer Forests in California and the Southwest

The Joint Fire Sciences Program has launched a new effort to create guide to fuel treatment practices in mixed-conifer forests in California, New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona. Dr. Zander Evans, Research Director for the Forest Guild will be leading the project in collaboration with Drs. Scott Stephens and Rick Everett from the University of California Berkeley and James Youtz, the Region 3 Silviculturalist for the US Forest Service. Dr. Evans' group will also be working with a team led by Han-Sup Han of Humboldt State University. Han's team is writing a complimentary guide to fuel treatment practices in the mixed-conifer forests of the Cascades, Blue, and northern Rocky Mountains.

One of the first tasks will be to clearly define mixed-conifer forests since the forest type exists along a broad continuum of climatic zones and consists of many different assemblages of species. The synthesis will focus on California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, including forests of the eastern and western Sierra, the transverse and peninsular ranges in southern California, the central/southern Rocky Mountains, and the southwestern plateaus and uplands. In these areas we will cover mixed-conifer forests of fir and Douglas-fir where they mix with ponderosa and Jeffery pine. The guide will not include ponderosa pine stands that are too hot and/or too dry to support mixed-conifer forest.

Once the team has more specifically defined the forest type, they will review the existing scientific literature about the ecology, silvics, silviculture, fire, and fuels treatments for these forests. At the same time, they will reach out to federal, tribal, state, municipal, and private land stewards to include their perspective and experience on fuel treatments in mixed-conifer forests. The team will interview managers and create case studies of specific fuels treatments and results based on their work. Part of the project will be working with field foresters to document their successes and to host field events in the Southwest and California.

The final result of the research will be a publication that provides land managers with information they can use to implement successful fuel treatment projects. The mixed-conifer guide will also be integrated in to the Guild's Ecological Forestry Resource Center via our existing guides to [Sierran Mixed-conifer](#) and [Southwestern Mixed-conifer forests](#).

For more information please contact:  
**Dr. Zander Evans**  
Research Director, the Forest Guild  
[www.forestguild.org](http://www.forestguild.org)

*P.O. Box 519*  
*Santa Fe, NM 87504*  
*505-983-8992 x 36*  
[zander@forestguild.org](mailto:zander@forestguild.org)

