



## New Guide to Reducing Catastrophic Fire in Mixed Conifer Forests in the West

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*Santa Fe, NM*— Fire and smoke are a natural, healthy part of many Western forests. The Forest Guild announces a new guide for forestry professionals to help them to manage fire in mixed conifer forests.

The guide highlights the challenges of living and working in forests where historically, fires may have naturally occurred every 8 to 25 years. The increased density of younger trees in mixed conifer forests during the past century has greatly increased the risk of larger, more severe fires.

Principal author Dr. Zander Evans states, “With more and more year-round and second homes being built in these forests, it is critical that forest managers have the most up-to-date information. This guide will help managers overcome the challenges of trying to reduce the risk to humans, houses, and ecosystems from fires that have the potential to burn severely over vast areas.”

The guide also provides suggestions to help integrate wildlife concerns, such as protecting spotted owl habitat, with forest thinning projects to reduce the threat of those large, severe fires.

Collaboration has become a necessary part of land management and new programs such as Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and the Joint Fire Science Knowledge Exchange Consortia encourage alliances including land managers and local residents to talk and work together to forge greater agreement on forest management objectives.

The report can be downloaded from the Forest Guild’s website:  
[www.forestguild.org/mixed\\_conifer.html](http://www.forestguild.org/mixed_conifer.html)

The **Forest Guild** is a national organization of more than 800 foresters, natural resource professionals, and supporters who practice and promote ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them.

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