

American Forests Works to Save California's Forests

California's forests are among the most carbon-rich forests in the world, supply more than 65 percent of the state's drinking water and contain some of America's most treasured landscapes, including Yosemite National Park.

Yet, these forests are facing unprecedented threats from a changing climate, increased and prolonged drought, and more severe wildfire activity. The combined effects of these changes and extreme events are severely stressing the region's iconic forests and diminishing the natural benefits that California forests provide people every day. Since just 2010, more than 147 million trees have died in California.

To meet these challenges, American Forests is building partnerships and using science to develop climate-informed restoration strategies to improve forest health across the state. This includes collaborative efforts to scale up forest restoration, testing out new adaptation strategies, and implementing climate-smart projects.

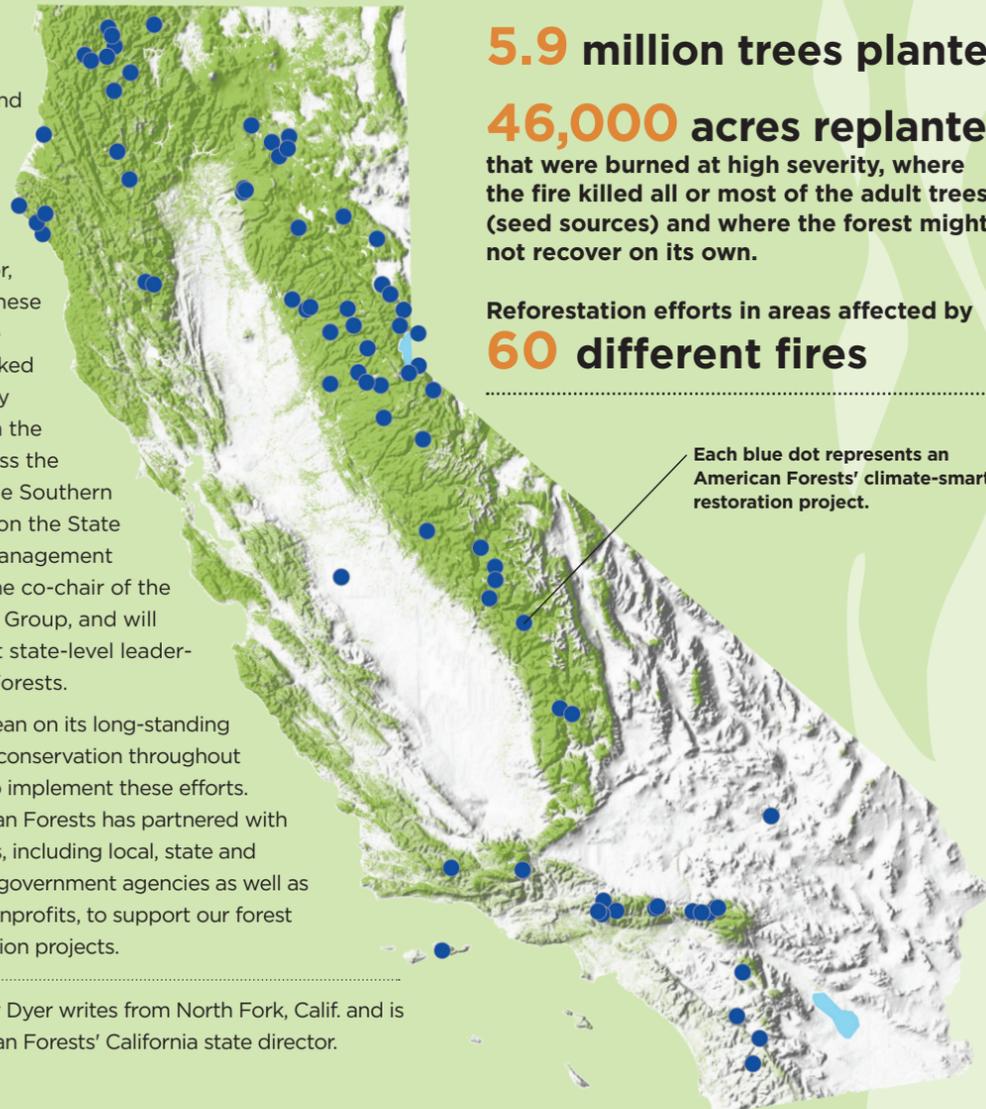
In 2019, American Forests hired its first California State Director, Brittany Dyer, to lead these efforts. For the last five years, Brittany has worked with the Madera County Board of Supervisors in the Sierra Nevada to address the forest health crisis in the Southern Sierra. She also serves on the State of California's Forest Management Task Force, acting as the co-chair of the Tree Mortality Working Group, and will continue this important state-level leadership role at American Forests.

American Forests' will lean on its long-standing history of collaborative conservation throughout the state of California to implement these efforts. Starting in 1991, American Forests has partnered with numerous organizations, including local, state and

federal government agencies as well as local nonprofits, to support our forest restoration projects.



Brittany Dyer writes from North Fork, Calif. and is American Forests' California state director.



Each blue dot represents an American Forests' climate-smart restoration project.

ACROSS CALIFORNIA:

139 wildlands projects

More than **7.8** million trees planted

More than **\$2.6** million invested

IN CALIFORNIA FIRE-BURNED AREAS ONLY:

96 wildlands projects

5.9 million trees planted

46,000 acres replanted that were burned at high severity, where the fire killed all or most of the adult trees (seed sources) and where the forest might not recover on its own.

Reforestation efforts in areas affected by **60** different fires

American Forests plants tree species like giant sequoia and Jeffrey pine that have evolved with fire. These trees have:

Widely spaced branches and open crown

Fire-resistant needles with high moisture content

High branches so fire can't climb into the crown of the tree

Thick, inflammable bark that insulates the tree from heat

After a fire, giant sequoia seeds establish in bare soil and abundant light and grow quickly



How the Fire Funding Fix Will Help Address Wildfires:

American Forests helped lead the Fire Funding Fix Coalition which advocated for the comprehensive wildfire suppression funding solution and passed in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill. This fix, now being implemented in fiscal year 2020, changes how the U.S. Forest Service is able to fund and fight wildfires, ensuring stable funding and removing the need to transfer funds from other programs to use in wildfire suppression. This is great news as it not only addresses the rising costs of fighting wildfires, but allows projects that help reduce the risk of wildfires to go forward without the risk of those funds being needed to fight fires.