

FORESTRY REVIEW COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE: Yana Valachovic, Forest Advisor, RPF #2740

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ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS: Society of American Foresters, California Licensed Foresters Association, Forest Stewards Guild, Buckeye Conservancy, Ecological Society of America

SPECIAL INTERESTS: Landowner education, protecting our region from non-native pests and diseases, pest and disease management, fire planning, landscape planning, enhancing management options for small landowners, addressing tree management options on small parcels (<3 acres) in the County's jurisdiction, etc.

FORESTRY ISSUES OF CONCERN: Forestry, forests and the stewardship of the natural resource landscape of Humboldt County is my profession and interest. As the UC Cooperative Extension Forest Advisor, I work to maintain and enhance the economic and ecological viability of all County forestlands. I provide technical assistance, educational opportunities and targeted research for a large, diverse clientele of landowners and managers from industrial, non-industrial and public lands including resource professionals from a variety of public and private organizations and agencies.

Recent research projects involved early detection and treatment for Sudden Oak Death infested areas, redwood fire severity, and assessment of coarse woody debris in forests. Past workshops have covered subjects such as stewardship planning, advanced road restoration, non-timber forest products, tree planting, fuel hazard reduction, Sudden Oak Death awareness and the annual Forestry Institute for Teachers.

In particular, there are a number of very important issues that are likely to come before the board in the next few years regarding the General Plan Update. I have been serving the FRC as an *ex officio* member, and now that we are facing some critical decision points I would very much like to assist the board in making informed decisions regarding future planning options.

The FRC was created with the idea that its membership would have representation from the UC Cooperative Extension Forest Advisor. It has been over 6 years since UC has been a formal member of the FRC. I would like to more formally assist the board by serving as a FRC voting member.

REFERENCES: Jim Able, Mark Andre, Gary Rynearson, Kim Rodrigues

YANA VALACHOVIC

TITLES: UC Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Fire Network- Community Resiliency and Built Environment (lead)
- Policy Institute- Assoc. Director, Natural Ecosystems and Working Landscapes

University of California Cooperative Extension, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties

- Forest Advisor, County Director

CONTACT INFORMATION: 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503; 707-445-7351; yvala@ucanr.edu

EDUCATION:

1998 M.S. Forest Ecology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331

1994 B.S. Forest Ecology, Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA 98505

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER (RPF): #2740

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: 2000- 2026

My roles have evolved within the University of California. I am currently serving in 4 positions. In 2000, I became the UC Cooperative Extension **forest advisor**. In 2009, I added a part-time **County Director** position. More recently, within the larger Division of the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), I expanded my statewide leadership in Community Resiliency and the Built Environment issue within the UC ANR **Fire Network**. In 2025, I was invited to serve as the UCANR **Policy Institute** Associate Director, representing issues related to Natural Ecosystems and Working Landscapes.

2025- present Fire Network and Policy Institute

I am passionate about finding solutions to challenging problems, drawing on my skills in forestry, natural resources research, and wildfire mitigation, as well as my years rooted in County government and community engagement. I provide statewide leadership in natural resources and fire through these roles and am helping to develop a new UC Policy Institute. I organize conferences, workshops, and other learning environments to help communities and professionals become better fire-adapted. I work with agencies, the legislature, and their staff on a range of topics, including bioenergy, forest management, fire mitigation, and wildfire insurance.

2008- present County Director

I serve as the administrator for the Humboldt and Del Norte Cooperative Extension offices in Eureka and Crescent City. I serve as Department Head for both Counties. I manage both UC and county budgets and a staff of 15 scientists and community educators who support natural resources, agriculture, youth development, nutrition, and volunteer programs (e.g., 4-H, Master Gardener, and Master Food Preserver). I have been awarded over \$7 million in grants and contracts.

2000 -present Forest Advisor

I address the needs of regional forest landowners and natural resource professionals through research, technical consultations, and short courses and conferences. My research interests include natural resource policy, silviculture, oak woodland ecology and management, fuels management, home design and construction, prescribed fire, and insect and disease management. I am a frequent guest speaker at technical and policy conferences, workshops, and webinars.

AWARDS:

- California Board of Forestry Outstanding Achievement Award (November 2006).
- California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Partnership Award (January 2012).
- Two Chiefs Partnership Award (May 2012, from the NRCS and Forest Service Chiefs)
- Western Extension and Research Director's Annual Award of Team Excellence (May 2015).

MEMBERSHIPS/ PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- International Assoc. of Wildland Fire
- Association of Fire Ecology
- Society of American Foresters
- California Licensed Foresters Association
- Northern CA Prescribed Fire Council
- California Fire Science Consortium
- CA Board of Forestry Professional Forestry Examining Committee
- Wildfire Forest Resilience Task Force

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

- Knapp, E. E., **Valachovic, Y. S.**, Quarles, S. L., & Johnson, N. G. 2021. Housing arrangement and vegetation factors associated with single-family home survival in the 2018 Camp Fire, California. *Fire Ecology*, 17(1), 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42408-021-00117-0>
- Valachovic, Y.**, Quarles, S. L., & Swain, S. V. 2021. Reducing the Vulnerability of Buildings to Wildfire: Vegetation and Landscaping Guidance. UC ANR Publication #8695. <https://doi.org/10.3733/ucanr.8695>
- Valachovic, Y.**, L. Quinn-Davidson, J. Stackhouse, V. Butsic. 2019. Perceptions of cannabis among Humboldt County timberland and ranchland owners. *California Agriculture* 73(3):161-168. <https://doi.org/10.3733/ca.2019a0010>.
- Schriver, M., R. L. Sherriff, J. M. Varner, L. Quinn-Davidson, and **Y. Valachovic**. 2018. Age and stand structure of oak woodlands along a gradient of conifer encroachment in northwestern California. *Ecosphere* 9(10):e02446.10.1002/ecs2.2446. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.2446>
- Standiford, R. and **Y. Valachovic**, tech. cords. 2017. Coast redwood science symposium—2016: Past successes and future direction. Proceedings of a conference. Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-258. Albany, CA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station. 446 p.
- Valachovic, Y.** Twieg, B., Lee, C., Cobb, R. and Stark, D. 2017. Forest stand conditions after *Phytophthora ramorum* management in northern California: post-treatment observations inform future responses. *Forest Phytophthoras* 7(1):54-66. doi:10.5399/osu/fp.7.1.4018
- Eitzel, M.V., M. Kelly, I. Dronova, **Y. Valachovic**, L. Quinn-Davidson, J. Solera, P. de Valpine. 2016. Challenges and opportunities in synthesizing historical geospatial data using statistical models. *Ecological Informatics*, 31, pp.100-111. doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoinf.2015.11.011
- Standiford, R. and **Y. Valachovic**, tech. cords. 2017. Coast redwood science symposium—2016: Past successes and future direction. Proceedings of a conference. Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-258. Albany, CA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station. 446 p. https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr258/psw_gtr258.pdf
- Valachovic, Y.**, L. Quinn-Davidson, R. Standiford. 2015. Can the California Forest Practice Rules adapt to address conifer encroachment? In Standiford, Richard B.; Purcell, Kathryn L., tech. cords. 2015. Proceedings of the seventh California oak symposium: managing oak woodlands in a dynamic world. Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-251. Berkeley, CA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station. 579 p.
- Valachovic, Y.**, Lee, C.A., Scanlon, H., Varner, J.M., Glebocki, R., Graham, B.D., and Rizzo, D.M. 2011. Sudden oak death-caused changes to surface fuel loading and potential fire behavior in Douglas-fir-tanoak forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* 261 (11): 1973-1986. doi: 10.1016/j.foreco.2011.02.024.
- Valachovic, Y.**, B. Caldwell, K. Cromack, R. P. Griffiths. 2004. Leaf Litter Chemistry Controls on the Decomposition of Pacific Northwest Trees and Woody Shrubs. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*. 34: 2131-2147.