

# **TreePeople to plant 30,000 trees and plants in Mountains throughout Los Angeles County**

**Project includes restoration of vital region in the Angeles National Forest**



*San Francisquito Canyon, Photo by Adam Corey Thomas*

(LOS ANGELES) - TreePeople announced today that they have been approved to plant over 30,000 native plants and trees and conduct multiple studies throughout the hills and mountains of LA County in the next two years. Efforts will be focused on the Santa Monica Mountains and the Angeles National Forest.

“This is a huge investment for the future of the forests and will help to create a more climate-resilient Southern California,” said TreePeople CEO Cindy Montañez. “In addition to our plantings, we are using our time in the mountains to conduct research to help future generations of mountain foresters. Our novel model utilizes and trains community members to help plant and take care of these special ecosystems, empowering communities across the region to take ownership of the land that we are so blessed to be on.”

Restoring land in mountains damaged by fire and impacted by non-native invasive plants helps rebuild a functioning ecosystem and watershed; helps prevent fire as native species are less prone to catch on fire than their non-native counterparts; helps with water conservation and erosion as our local plants have gone through thousands of years of co-evolution and use dramatically less water, while their deep roots keep healthy soil in place and prevent landslides; and helps create habitats for local wildlife to thrive in.



*TreePeople Woolsey Fire Restoration, Photo by Adam Corey Thomas*

Working in these mountain areas has allowed TreePeople the opportunity to conduct research on some of the unique plant-life that evolved here. TreePeople is participating in a study for the reintroduction of the federally listed endangered species Nevin's barberry—partnering with the California Botanic Garden to ensure the 600 individual plantings at 10 different sites survive and thrive.

TreePeople is also working in close collaboration with the US Forest Service and the California Botanic Garden in launching a study for the regeneration of the Bigcone Douglas-fir, a conifer species endemic to the transverse ranges of mountains of Southern California, which has seen its range gradually impacted and constricted by the climate change-induced rise in temperatures and drop in precipitation. This study includes the collection of seeds and propagation of 3,000 seedlings at TreePeople and CalBG nurseries and will look at the various methods of propagation, planting, and maintenance for this delicate species to provide guidance for future reforestation efforts after fire.

The plant and tree species TreePeople is reintroducing to its restoration sites cover a wide range of spectrum and diversity needed for wildlife: from the keystone coast live oak to the monarch-loving milkweed to the various grasses favored by deer and rabbits alike. In the beautiful chaparral slopes of the Sierra Pelona Mountains just north of Santa Clarita, TreePeople has worked to restore areas damaged by the Copper Fire—where additional human disturbance and the introduction of non-native invasive plant species have led to heavy degradation. These areas are filled with prone-to-fire dry flash fuel, are impenetrable to wildlife, and have low biodiversity.

“Through removal of the invasive plant species and replanting of appropriate native plants, habitat restoration provides all the benefits needed for a healthy watershed,” said Thierry Rivard, TreePeople’s Director of Mountain Forestry. “TreePeople has seen the positive effects of their work firsthand: when we plant a diverse group of native plants, wildlife returns to the area.”

Join us: [treepeople.org/volunteer](https://treepeople.org/volunteer).

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*Los Angeles-based TreePeople is Southern California's largest environmental movement, whose mission is to inspire, engage, and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment. Visit us at [treepeople.org](http://treepeople.org) and learn how you can join our cause.*

### *Angeles - San Francisquito Canyon*

Over the last 4 years, we have already planted 12,000 plants and will be adding another 5,000 this fall alone and continue with another 6,500 the following year.  
We will continue to plant

### *Santa Monica*

In the past couple of years we have been able to secure grants to help us maintain 3500 trees we planted last year in the fire-scarred Santa Monica mountains damaged by the Woolsey Fire in 2018.

### Mountains

- I-5
  - Cheeseboro
    - Maintenance of 2,000 trees until end of 2022
  - Paramount Ranch
    - Maintenance of 1,500 trees until end of 2022
  - Replacement plantings of 1,500 spring of 2022
  - CCP
- NFWF
  - San Francisquito round 2
    - Planting 5,000 plants & trees in fall 2021
  - San Francisquito round 3
    - Planting 6,500 native plants and trees in 2022/23
  - Bigcone Study
    - Propagation of 3,000 pine seedlings
    - Planting, maintenance and monitoring through 2023
  - Powerhouse Pine Plantings
    - 11,000 conifers
- NFF
  - (Re:wild)Re:Oak propagation and Planting
    - 3,5000 oak seedlings propagated
    - 11,000 oak planting from Fall 2021 to Fall 2022
  - Nevin's barberry
    - Maintenance of 600 endangered plants
    - Ends in Nov 22
- Baldwin Hills

- 20 Volunteer restoration workshops
- Kick off event “Project assessment meeting”
- Community-based design process
- Timeline: now-2022
- Boeing
  - Alder Saddle pine maintenance (500) + plantings through 2023
  - Powerhouse pine plantings through end of 2023
- Valley 2
  - Land Trust mitigation project
  -
- Volunteer Training & Workshops
  - Volunteer Supervisor once per month
  - Volunteer Workshop one every other month
- General Mountain Forestry Objectives
  - Increase awareness of TreePeople
  - Increase awareness of mountains proximity to LA, etc., valuable role of mountains.
  - Mountain/urban volunteer cross-pollination
  - General education about mountains, watersheds, native plants, etc