



Meet Your Urban and Community Forestry Program Team!

Read on to learn more about the team serving your urban and community forests in the Pacific Southwest Region.



Miranda Hutten, Program Manager

Since 2015, Miranda has led the Urban and Community Forest Program for the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) of the Forest Service. Her program area in Region 5 covers California, Hawai'i, and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands (Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, American Samoa, and Palau). Her goal is to further partnerships with states, cities, communities, and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of the importance of trees in sustaining healthy and

resilient communities. Miranda is a graduate of the School of Environmental and Public Affairs at Indiana University with master's degrees in both natural resources management and applied ecology. She was appointed as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) in the Forest Service as well as served in natural resource management roles at various government levels and non-profits. In her spare time, Miranda enjoys wilderness camping across the region and attempting to develop a green thumb in her backyard.



Alicia Sanchez Scott, Assistant Program Manager

Alicia is an Assistant Program Manager with the Urban and Community Forestry Program in Region 5. Alicia began her Forest Service career in 2007 through the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) on the Sierra National Forest as a Recreation Technician. She began working on the Los Padres National Forest on the central California coast as the District Recreation Program Manager as an intern through the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). She received a bachelor's degree in recreation administration and Chicano and Latin American studies from California State University, Fresno. Alicia

has completed various assignments managing wilderness, recreation, trails, special uses, grants and agreements, and conservation education at the Pacific Southwest Regional Office, Sierra National Forest, and Los Padres National Forest. In 2022, she began working as the Forest Recreation Program Manager on the Los Padres National Forest until 2023, when she joined the Urban and Community Forestry team with State and Private Forestry. As a California native, she enjoys camping, kayaking, backpacking, gardening, and exploring the Sierras with her family.



Laura Wolf, Assistant Program Manager

Laura is joining the UCF team in Region 5 as an assistant program manager. Laura grew up in Santa Cruz, California, and graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in integrative biology and a minor in forestry and natural resources. After taking some time off from school to live in New York City, she returned to California to get a Master of Environmental Science and Management (MESM) degree from the Bren School at University of California, Santa Barbara. Her area of study was conservation planning, and her research focused on the climate vulnerability and management challenges of an endemic oak species on the Channel Islands off the coast of southern California. She was a Pathways intern on the Plumas National Forest before joining the agency

permanently in 2019 as the Wood Innovations Coordinator on the Cooperative Forestry team in Region 2. Laura is super happy to return to her home state where she is closer to friends, family, and California native plants. Outside of work she enjoys hiking, camping, cooking, and throwing pottery.



Kat Williams, Grants Management Program Specialist

As a Program Specialist working with the UCF Program, Kat specializes in grant management and especially enjoys developing relationships with partners while acting as a bridge between program managers and the Region 5 Grant Manager. Kat joined the UCF team in early 2023 after moving to California from Virginia, where she worked at the National Science Foundation in the Office of General Counsel. As a military spouse, she has spent the last 20 years exploring the beautiful landscapes of this country and is thrilled to finally call Monterey, California home. Kat has a master's degree in natural resource management from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her

family and taking advantage of all that the Monterey Bay has to offer, from kayaking and hiking to counting Monarch butterflies at the Pacific Grove Sanctuary.



Pauline Ordenez, Program Specialist

Pauline is excited to strengthen existing and establish new relationships with partners across California, Hawai'i, and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. Before joining the agency permanently in 2023, Pauline served as a Resource Assistant (RA) for Region 5 State & Private Forestry and the Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW), supporting the region's Climate Change and Sustainable Operations, Research and Development, and UCF programs. Prior to her RA position, she interned with the National Parks Service on a National Historic Site in Boston and on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Pauline has a bachelor's in English with a minor in conservation biology from University of California, Los Angeles and grew up in the

suburbs of LA. She now works remotely out of the Bay Area, spending her free time solving crosswords, taking care of her collection of air plants, and climbing boulders.



Michelle Carr, Program Specialist

Michelle holds a bachelor's and master's degree in environmental sciences from the University of California, Riverside. Prior to graduate school, she was an RA who participated in several outreach events with the LA Urban Center and credits these experiences as fundamental to shaping her career interests and trajectory. One of her major aspirations is to bridge the gap between science and the public through engagement and communication with underrepresented groups. After graduating in 2022, she returned to the Forest Service as an ORISE fellow with PSW, engaging with agency staff, potential partners, and members of the community to understand their outdoor recreation needs on the San Dimas Experimental Forest.

Now, she looks forward to supporting urban and community forestry projects and partners in the LA metropolitan area, and she's grateful for the opportunity to be a liaison between research, management, and the general public to ensure equal access to the best available science. Outside of work, she spends most of her time at the beach, hiking, roller skating, or traveling. She also considers herself a foodie; she loves cooking and trying new restaurants.



Jennipher Himmelmann, Resource Assistant

Jennipher is excited to be a part of the Urban and Community Forestry team, receiving mentoring, experiencing on-the-job training, building connections, and developing professional experience. She graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo with a Bachelor of Science in environmental science. A 32-year-old Brazilian native who had the privilege of being raised between Brazil, California, and Hawai'i, Jennipher holds each one of these places near and dear to her heart. These days, Jennipher lives near Hilo on the Big Island of Hawai'i with her

husband and 6-year-old son. She takes full advantage of living on a beautiful tropical island and enjoy outdoors activities such as snorkeling/diving, fishing, hiking, and birdwatching—to name a few!



Chanel Yee, Resource Assistant

Chanel is excited to join the UCF team and support UCF program goals as well as explore the relationship between wildfire risk and urban expansion across the Hawaiian Islands. Chanel was born and raised on O'ahu and moved to Vancouver, Canada to complete a bachelor's degree in urban forestry and a minor in landscape and recreation planning from the University of British Columbia (UBC). At UBC, she also worked as a research assistant in the Urban Forest Ecosystems Lab,

supporting a study that aims to bridge gaps in urban forest management actions and city-wide ecosystem service goals. Prior to this RA position, Chanel was a research fellow for Kaulunani, the state of Hawai'i's Urban and Community Forestry Program, where she explored her research topic of wildfire risk and urban expansion in the wildland urban interfaces of South Kohala and North Kona on Hawai'i Island. Chanel is grateful to return home and apply the knowledge and skills she acquired through her urban forestry degree to the community and land she grew up in. Outside of the office, Chanel enjoys hiking, camping, top rope climbing, traveling to new countries, and reading at the beach.