

Today is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. This is Ken Morgan's Northcoast Ag Report, our lead story is about \_\_\_\_\_ when we return

## **Tax Reform by August Unlikely**

**Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin (mi-new-chin) says getting tax reform legislation on the President's desk by August appears unlikely. Mnuchin told the Financial Times this week the tax reform timeline is "highly aggressive to not realistic at this point," in referring to his prior comments on finishing tax reform by August. He cites health care reforms as the delaying factor, but still expects tax reform to be completed sometime in 2017. Farm groups, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, have testified to Congress on the need to eliminate the estate tax, and have called on Congress to create a simpler tax code for farmers and ranchers. Ag groups are also urging Congress to reduce income tax rates, reduce capital gains taxes and allow for immediate business expensing.**

- [Actualty: Best Scenario for Western Snowpack Melt Would Be Gradual Warm-up](#)

Brad Rippey, USDA meteorologist, saying the best case scenario for the Western snowpack melt would be no more storms, a gradual warm-up, slow melting and controlled runoff.

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## **Free forestry workshops to help teachers meet new science standards**

**California's K-12 teachers are being challenged by the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) to find new and more engaging ways to teach science. Adopted by California in 2013, the science-education standards guide how science, technology, engineering and math education are delivered to students in the classroom. The Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) offers free environmental education training for teachers in a northern California forest.**

"Teachers who participate in the Forestry Institute for Teachers learn to apply Next Generation Science Standards concepts as they develop or refine class lessons using the forest as a lens through which all classroom subject matter can be taught," said [Mike De Lasaux](#), UC Cooperative Extension natural resources advisor for Plumas and Sierra counties and a FIT instructor.

Learning science through FIT's participatory model is more exciting than memorizing facts from a textbook. In the forest, FIT instructors point out opportunities for students to use technology, engineering and math to better understand the world around them. For example, math can be used to estimate the height of a towering tree. Seeing the "web of life" relationships, such as the effects of rainfall and insects on tree growth, leads to more critical thinking to solve problems.

**"The goal of the Forestry Institute for Teachers is to provide K-12 teachers with knowledge, skills and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology and forest resource management practices and much more,"** said De Lasaux.

California teachers from rural and urban settings are invited to spend a week during the summer working outdoors with natural resources experts to gain a deeper understanding of forest ecosystems and human use of natural resources. The participants are organized by grade level for age-appropriate activities. They take field-trips and do hands-on activities such as examining the rings in a tree's cross-section to learn about events – such as wet or dry periods, insect or disease damage – that have occurred during the tree's lifetime.

The Forestry Institute for Teachers has been providing science education and other subject content to California K-12 teachers since 1993 with more than 2,500 educators completing the program.

**FIT is a week-long residence program** developed by the Northern California Society of American Foresters in collaboration with the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources' Cooperative Extension, the USDA Forest Service, CALFIRE and other entities. The FIT Program is underwritten by a consortium of public and private sources.

**FIT is offered in forested settings in four Northern California locations:**

- June 11-17 in Plumas County
- June 18-24 in Tuolumne County
- July 2-8 in Shasta County
- **July 9-15 in Humboldt County**

There is an application fee of \$25, but training, meals and lodging are free for first-time participants. To watch videos of past participants discussing their FIT experience and to apply to attend, visit [www.forestryinstitute.org](http://www.forestryinstitute.org).