



MEMORANDUM

Presented at the July 11, 2012 City Council meeting

Date: June 27, 2012

To: Arcata City Council

From: Forest Management Committee (FMC)

Re: Forest Management Committee Annual Report to the Arcata City Council for 2011/2012

COMMITTEE

Chair: Russ Forsburg
Jack Naylor
Yana Valachovic
Dennis Halligan
Lowell Diller
Mike Furniss
Danny Hagans



Arcata Community Forest Trail Work Day volunteers Fall 2011

INTRODUCTION

The following information is a summary of the various activities of the Forest Management Committee (FMC) during 2011.

General

- Added 153 acres to Forest .– (17) acres from Green Diamond Resources Company; (22) acres from George & Mary Schmidbauer and (114) acres from Bob & Carol Morris. Total acquisition value for 2011 was \$3.2 million.
- A timber harvest was completed; 190 thousand-board-feet (MBF) from the Jacoby Creek Forest.
- The City forest program was featured in the Forestland Steward publication.
- Conducted a post harvest tour in the Jacoby Creek Forest and a post road decommissioning tour in the Sunny Brae Forest.
- Completed project registration of the sequestration project with the Climate Action Reserve.
- Amended the NTMP to include a new haul route and trail connectivity on the north side of the ACF to West End Road.
- Work on the Ridge Trail is in progress on the Samuels Conservation easement segment. Ridge Trail fundraisers are planned for September and October and the FMC supports and applauds the public participation and support of these efforts.
- Held a joint Meeting with Energy Committee to discuss forest biomass and its use to mitigate climate change.
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Research and Monitoring

- Staff continued to monitor northern spotted owls, barred owls and other raptors.
- In Jacoby Creek Forest, established and set up monitoring stations for Fishers.
- The City is a co-sponsor (along with HSU; USFWS and State Parks) for a National Science Foundation grant application for forest canopy research

Roads/Trails/Watershed/Vegetation

- Continued development on the ridge route, a recreational trail plan connecting city-owned properties throughout Arcata. (Council Priority 36).
- Over 17 miles of roads and trails continue to be maintained at a high standard and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of road received rock surface application.
- With representatives from local mountain bicycle groups, completed a new trail #13 in the Community Forest.
- Decommissioned $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of poor legacy road prism in the Sunny Brae Forest and installed $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of recreational trail.
- Received a Fire safe grant in amount of \$85,000 to perform shaded fuel break work at the urban interface of the JCF (Barnum) and Sunny Brae Forest.
- Applied for Dept. of Fish and Game grant funding for upper Grotzman Creek road decommissioning work.

Education/Interpretation/Recreation

- Gave two forest practice tours to local college classes, two lectures at Humboldt State University and one presentation in Santa Rosa at the North Coast Forest Conservation Conference *Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities and Healthy Economies*.
- The Arcata Community Forest hosted four events that required special use permits: Race for the Ridge, 12 hrs of Humboldt Bike Race.
- Staff led an ecology walk through Jacoby Creek Canyon.

2012/2013 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Committee will:

- Lead a Forest Management Committee public walk in the Sunny Brae Forest.
- Work with other committees on continued implementation of the open space program especially in the development of funding sources.
- Continue to work with staff to revive a “Friends of the Forest” cadre of volunteers to assist with patrolling the roads and trail system.
- Continue to be involved in the Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) amendments with emphasis on amending the Sunny Brae Forest into the plan now that management access to Fickle Hill Road has been secured.
- Explore a potential sister forest relationship with Belize.
- Evaluate and provide advice on potential land acquisitions. Strategic acquisitions improve the City’s ability to effectively manage landscapes and timberland continues to be a good long-term investment.
- Provide input on development of a focused five-year budget and revenue plan that provides for adding to the reserve fund.
- Complete the access road and circulation system for the Sunny Brae Forest.
- Strengthen cooperative partnership with Humboldt State University and try to involve students in more community forest projects and work with HSU on a potential College Forest in the headwater region of the Jacoby Creek watershed.
- Review and monitor this summer’s planned harvest activities.
- In the Sunny Brae Forest, the second phase of decommissioning of roads adjacent to Beith Creek will commence later this summer.
- Open the northern half of the Ridge Trail to the public.

TIMBER INVENTORY STATUS

The forest is being managed to maximize habitat diversity with an emphasis to grow late-seral forest habitat (move the forest towards an old-growth condition). Management priorities include watershed, wildlife habitat, recreation, carbon sequestration and timber harvest revenue. Wildlife habitat objectives drive the silviculture. Silvicultural systems include selection, group selection and variable retention. Approximately 35% of the land base is in reserves. The current timber inventory on the land available for timber production is 68 million board feet. The maximum allowable annual harvest is approximately ½ of the annual growth increment on the “working landscape” portion (excluding the reserves). This amount is 500-600 thousand board feet. Therefore, the forests continue to accrue volume and age over time.

The Community and Jacoby Creek Forests are managed whereby:

Biological and physical elements of the forests, specifically wildlife, aquatic and plant species; plant and animal communities; and watershed processes are maintained,

Forest stewardship, including timber harvest, maintains forest integrity while generating public benefits,

Forest stewardship is fully supported by the community,

Community and visitors enjoy the forest setting and recreate in a respectful manner,

Public land ownership extends to include watersheds and headwater areas as well as corridors to neighboring communities,

Forests serve as outdoor laboratories for local schools and the university; research and other academic studies are fostered, and

The City's forests continue to serve as a model, nationally and internationally, of managed redwood forests while striving for resource protection, revenue generation, and opportunities for public enjoyment.

**Adopted following public scoping/visioning process in 2001*



Beith Creek Road Decommissioning August 2011



Jacoby Creek Forest Timber Harvest (post harvest)2011