



MEMORANDUM

Presented at the June 5, 2012 City Council meeting

Date: May 24, 2013

To: Arcata City Council

From: Forest Management Committee (FMC)

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

COMMITTEE

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



INTRODUCTION

The following information is a summary of the various projects and activities that involved Forest Management Committee (FMC) during 2012. The Committee meets monthly on the second Thursday each month at 7:00 am and also conducts public field trips and evening meetings on occasion.

General

- With the assistance of Trust for Public Land and funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board, added 22 acres to Forest with an acquisition from George & Mary Schmidbauer Acquisition value was \$630,792.
- Received an approximate one acre forest conservation easement from Diane DeFord. This property is located adjacent to the Arcata Community Forest trail # 9.
- A timber harvest was completed; 807 thousand-board-feet (MBF) gross scale total was harvested from the both the Arcata Community and Jacoby Creek Forests . Much of the ACF harvest was trucked north to West End Road via the Samuels road easement thus avoiding residential neighborhoods. The harvest was predominantly redwood (80%); Douglas fir (15%) and Sitka spruce (5%). Four cords of firewood were harvested, split and delivered to residents as part of ridge trail fundraising.
- Delivered 17,709 metric tons of forest carbon.
- Completed a \$220,000 road decommissioning tour in the Sunnybrae Tract.
- Work on the Ridge Trail (Samuel's Loop) is in progress on the Samuels Conservation easement segment.
- In 2012, Ridge Trail fundraisers were held by the Eureka Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Arcata Eye, Humboldt Trails Trust and the California Horsemen's Association. Numerous private citizens also made donations. The Forest Management Committee supports and applauds the public participation and support of these efforts and thanks all those who organized events or made donations.
- Purchased 2.4 acre Humphry parcel that links the ACF with the Sunnybrae Tract (this is a 2013 acquisition but much of the effort was focused in 2012.) Tremendous community support helped with the key acquisition.
- Staff responded with Arcata Fire to a partially hollow old growth tree fire in the ACF that was likely started by an illicit campfire.
- Vandalism and litter are not a serious problem on the ACF and litter is only associated with illegal campsites. The FMC would like to see law enforcement data such as tickets issued etc. in order to better understand trends in incidents involving breaking of rules and regulations.

Research and Monitoring

- Staff continued to monitor northern spotted owls, barred owls and other raptors.
- The forest continues to be used by others for research purposes. The redwood Sciences Lab (USFS) continues with a long-term rainbow trout study on the Jacoby Creek Forest in Section 30.

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 1.5 miles of road received rock surface application. Installed a 70-foot long flatcar bridge on upper Groztnan Creek drainage.
- With representatives from local mountain bicycle groups, commenced work on the southern portion of the Arcata Ridge Trail in Sunny Brae Forest.
- Decommissioned 1/2 mile of poor legacy road in the Sunny Brae Forest and installed 2 miles of recreational trail.
- Completed fire fuel reduction along the urban interface of the Community Forest boundary with funding support from Calfire.
- Several community workdays involving hundreds of volunteer hours helped the city removed invasive plants, build trails and assist with litter cleanup.
- ATV use in the JCF has decreased from past years but is still a concern in the upper portions of the forest where roads are not surfaced with rock and unable to withstand vehicular use during the winter period.

Education/Interpretation/Recreation

- Staff gave four forest practice tours to local college classes, two lectures at Humboldt State University.
- Sponsored one fall forest ecology lecture at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center.
- The City co-hosted a western region Forest Guild workshop on carbon markets at redwood Lodge.
- The City hosted a field trip for the California Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee. This committee is an advisory body for the California Stewardship Program, which is administered by the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection through the Forest Legacy Program. The committee meets quarterly to learn about forestry issues throughout the state and to make recommendations on land protection and acquisition funding.
- Two interpretive walks were held in the Jacoby Creek Canyon; one, held in December, focused on fungi. Staff led an ecology walk through Jacoby Creek Canyon in June.
- Staff assisted the County of Humboldt with efforts to acquire the McKay tract for a County Community Forest.
- Completed a memorandum of understanding with the Humboldt Trail Stewards for patrolling and its participation in work days.
- A new “Find your bearing” sign was installed in the ACF to help visitors orient themselves in the east half of the forest.
- Staff and a member of the FMC assisted with marketing efforts sponsored by the Headwaters Fund to help market redwood products statewide as alternative materials have been eroding the market share that redwood has enjoyed over the years.

2013/2014 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Committee will:

- Lead a Forest Management Committee public walk in the Sunny Brae Tract.
- Work with other committees on continued implementation of the open space program especially in the development of funding sources.
- 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.
- Developing a sister forest relationship with Belize, Toledo District.
- 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 management strategy, budget and revenue plan that provides for adding to the reserve fund.
- Complete the access road and circulation system for the Sunny Brae Tract.
- Strengthen cooperative partnership with Humboldt State University and try to involve students in more community forest research projects. Develop a strategic plan to create a "Center of Excellence" to attract researchers to utilize the ACF.
- Continue to Work with HSU on a potential 978 acre College Forest in the headwater region of the Jacoby Creek watershed.
- Assist with technical guidance as the City closes and reclaims the Jacoby Creek rock quarry per requirements by the County of Humboldt.
- Review and monitor this summer's planned harvest activities.
- Open the northern half of the Ridge Trail to the public.

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*



Old growth Cedar: Upper Jacoby Creek Forest. State record largest Western Red Cedar was located in the City's Jacoby Creek Forest and is listed on the register of big trees in California.



Beith Creek Road Decommissioning 2012



2012 timber harvest in progress



Volunteer workday: trails on the Sunnybrae Tract of the ACF