



MEMORANDUM

Presented at the June 18, 2014 City Council
meeting

Date: June 18, 2014

To: Arcata City Council

From: Forest Management Committee (FMC)

Re: Forest Management Committee Annual Report to the Arcata City
Council for 2013 Activities

Forest Management Committee

Chair: Michael Furniss

Jack Naylor

Lowell Diller

Russ Forsburg

Yana Valachovic

Danny Hagans

Dennis Halligan, Vice Chair

Staff Liaison: Mark Andre



Old growth western red cedar, Jacoby Creek Forest

Introduction

The following information is a summary of the various projects and activities that involved Forest Management Committee (FMC) during 2013. 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 2.5 acres to Forest with an acquisition from Cindy and Ted Humphrey. Timber harvest revenue and local donations once again leveraged state grant funds to make the transaction possible.
- A timber harvest was completed; 398 thousand-board-feet (MBF) gross scale total was harvested from the both the Arcata Community Forest and Jacoby Creek Forest. 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 (96%); Douglas fir (4%).
- Delivered 10,937 metric tonnes of forest carbon. People can continue to buy offsets from the City by calling the Environmental Services Department. Also forest carbon can buy online now from City.
- Completed the 2.0-mile Upper Janes Creek Loop Trail (Samuel's Loop) is in expected to open in July 2014.
- Secured an important trail easement to link Panorama Ct. with the Sunnybrae Forest Tract.
- The rainforest Alliance conducted a forestry audit and renewed and issued a 5-year Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate. 2013 marked the 15th year of FSC certification for the City Forest.
- The City Forest will be featured in a book title: "Stitching the West Back Together", C. Charnley, University of Chicago Press due for release this summer.
- Staff authored a chapter in a forthcoming book titled: "Forest Plans of North America", to be published by the University of Georgia Academic Press.
- The City Forest was featured in the November 2013 edition of Mother Earth News.
- The City Forest continues to be regarded locally, nationally, and internationally as a model for community forests and municipal ownership and management of multi-use forests.

Research and Monitoring

- Staff continued to monitor northern spotted owls, barred owls and other raptors.
- The city monitored and commented on two timber harvest plans prepared by others adjacent to the JCF.
- Several study projects were completed including a dipper (bird) study at the JCF, and re-measuring permanent growth plots near Redwood Park that was initially installed in the 1920's.
- Worked with HSU Forestry faculty and classes to re-measure highly valuable permanent plots near Redwood Park and Redwood Sciences Lab. These areas are now believed to comprise the tallest second-growth forest anywhere.

Roads/Trails/Watershed/Vegetation

- Continued development on the ridge route, a recreational trail plan connecting city-owned properties throughout Arcata. (Council Priority).
- Over 17 miles of roads and trails continue to be maintained at a high standard and 1/2 mile of road received rock surface application. A contractor widened the 70-foot long bridge on upper Groatman Creek (Ridge Trail) and installed a 54" safety railing.
- Several community workdays involving hundreds of volunteer hours helped the city remove invasive plants, build trails and assist with litter cleanup.

Education/Interpretation/Recreation

- Staff gave three forest practice tours to local college classes, two lectures at Humboldt State University.
- Sponsored one fall forest ecology walk in the Jacoby Creek Forest.
- Staff assisted the County of Humboldt with efforts to acquire the McKay tract for a County Community Forest.

2014/2015 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Committee will:

- Lead a Forest Management Committee public walk in the Sunny Brae Tract and conduct a public session regarding recreational use and trail circulation.
- Provide input on development of a focused five-year management strategy, budget and revenue plan that provides for adding to the reserve fund.
- 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 121 acre “Lima” parcel in upper Jacoby Creek.
- Follow through with the 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. The Forthyse (58 acres) property east of HSU and west of the ACF is currently available. Also 22-acres along Jolly Giant Creek east of Granite Avenue is available. At a minimum the City can secure and recorded a public trail easement along a road already used extensively by the public over this privately held NR zoned parcel.
- Complete the access road and circulation system for the Sunny Brae Tract.
- Strengthen cooperative partnership with Humboldt State University to involve students and faculty in additional forest research projects, with an emphasis on second-growth biology and forestry. 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 967-acre College Forest in the headwater region of the Jacoby Creek watershed. Staff has been working to secure funding for this project. This area contains what are thought to be the largest and likely oldest western red cedar old growth in California.
- Assist with technical guidance as the City closes and reclaims the Jacoby Creek rock quarry per requirements by the County of Humboldt.
- Open the northern half of the Ridge Trail to the public by the end of summer in 2014.

The Arcata 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,

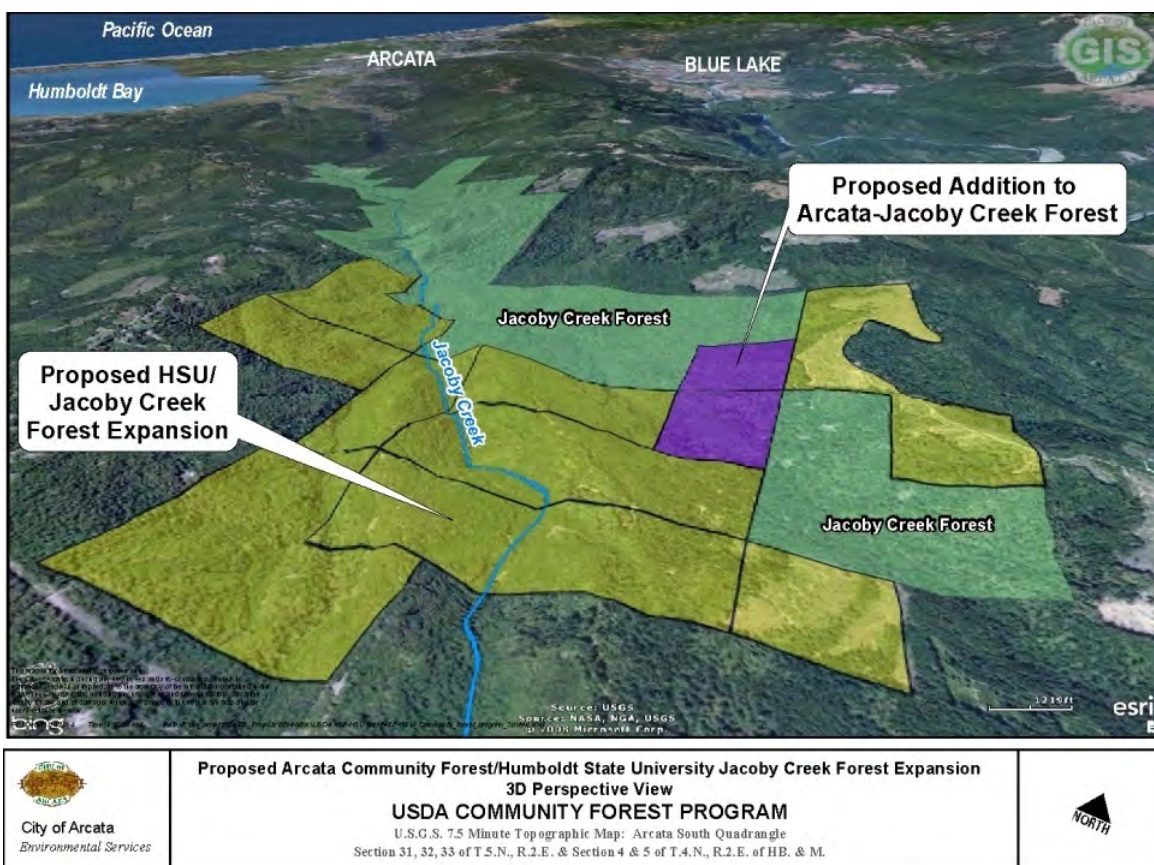
Forests serve as outdoor laboratories for local schools and the university; research and other academic studies are fostered, and

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*



Volunteer trail work day in the ACF.





Preparing for Jacoby Creek Forest canyon public hike



2014 timber post harvest view (top) in progress (bottom) Trail # 5, Arcata Community Forest



Extensive road rock applied to previously un-rocked road surfaces in the ACF near Diamond Dr.

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