



# MEMORANDUM

Presented at the June 3, 2015 City Council meeting

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Date: May 27, 2015

To: Arcata City Council

From: Forest Management Committee (FMC)

Re: Forest Management Committee Annual Report to the Arcata City Council for 2014 Activities

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## Forest Management Committee

Chair: Michael Furniss

Jack Naylor

Lowell Diller

Russ Forsburg

Yana Valachovic

Danny Hagans

Dennis Halligan, Vice Chair

Staff Liaison: Mark Andre



## Introduction

The following information is a summary of the various projects and activities that involved the Forest Management Committee (FMC) during 2014. 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

- A timber harvest was completed; 400 thousand-board-feet (MBF) gross scale total was harvested from the Jacoby Creek Forest (JCF). The harvest was predominantly redwood (60%); Douglas fir (25%) and whitewoods (grand fir and Sitka spruce/western hemlock ( 15%).
- Delivered 11,991 metric tonnes (mT) of forest carbon to various buyers ranging from 1 mT to 6,000 mT transactions.
- \$15,000 in local cash contributions were received to apply towards the forest fund for the Ridge Trail and forest expansion efforts.
- Completed the northern section of the Arcata Ridge Trail (Arcata Community Forest [ACF] to West End Rd) to open in June 2015.
- The City applied for grant funding for a 20 acre addition to the ACF along Jolly Giant Creek (Lima) and expects to find out about the grant funding status in June 2015.
- Developed additional trail network in the Sunny Brae unit.
- The Committee worked on the Forest Management Plan (FMP) update.
- The Rainforest Alliance conducted a forestry audit with positive results.
- The City Forest was featured in book titled: "Forest Plans of North America", published in 2014 by the University of Georgia Academic Press.
- The Committee recommended the City hold a conservation easement (Schimps) along Jacoby Creek adjacent to the JCF.
- Continued to Work with HSU on a potential 967-acre City/College Forest partnership acquisition in the headwater region of the Jacoby Creek watershed.

## Research and Monitoring

- Staff continued to monitor pacific fisher (located in the JCF and Sunny Brae Forest [SBF] units) northern spotted owls, barred owls and other raptors.
- Townsend's big eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) is a new candidate species for listing by the California Fish and Game Commission. The City's Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) was amended to incorporate survey protocol and management direction for future City timber harvests. This species has not yet been detected in the City forest.

- The ACF was used as a study site for a recent HSU Master theses: “How Do Crown Structure, Light Availability, and Competition Affect Trunk Growth of *Sequoia Sempervirens*”: By Ethan Coonen and Dr. Steve Sillett

### **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 2,000 linear feet of road received rock surface application.
- Several community workdays involving **hundreds of volunteer hours** helped the city removed invasive plants, build trails and assist with litter cleanup.
- The trail link from Panorama Court to the Arcata Ridge Trail was secured and the trail is under construction. An important recreational easement was secured in 2014 to facilitate this new trail segment and access point.
- The Committee discussed the Sunny Brae unit trail system and attempted to reflect community needs and input in this process.
- Approximately 3 acres of the Jacoby Creek rock quarry were landscaped with topsoil and native plants and conifers.

### **Education/Interpretation/Recreation**

- Staff gave three forest practice tours to local college classes and two lectures at Humboldt State University.
- Sponsored one spring forest ecology walk in the Jacoby Creek Forest.
- Staff assisted the County of Humboldt with efforts to plan and design the trail system for the County owned McKay tract Community Forest.
- Committee member Valachovic representative the City at a recent Northwest Community Forest Conference in Portland, Oregon.

### **2015/2016 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 the Forest Management Plan update. The Committee is committed to an accelerated pace for this. The development of a focused five-year management strategy, budget and revenue plan that provides for adding to the reserve fund will be part of this process.
- 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.

- 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 Forsyth (58 acres) property east of HSU and west of the ACF is currently available.
- Strengthen cooperative partnership with Humboldt State University to involve students and faculty in additional forest research projects,
- Continue to Work with HSU on a potential 967-acre College Forest in the headwater region of the Jacoby Creek watershed.

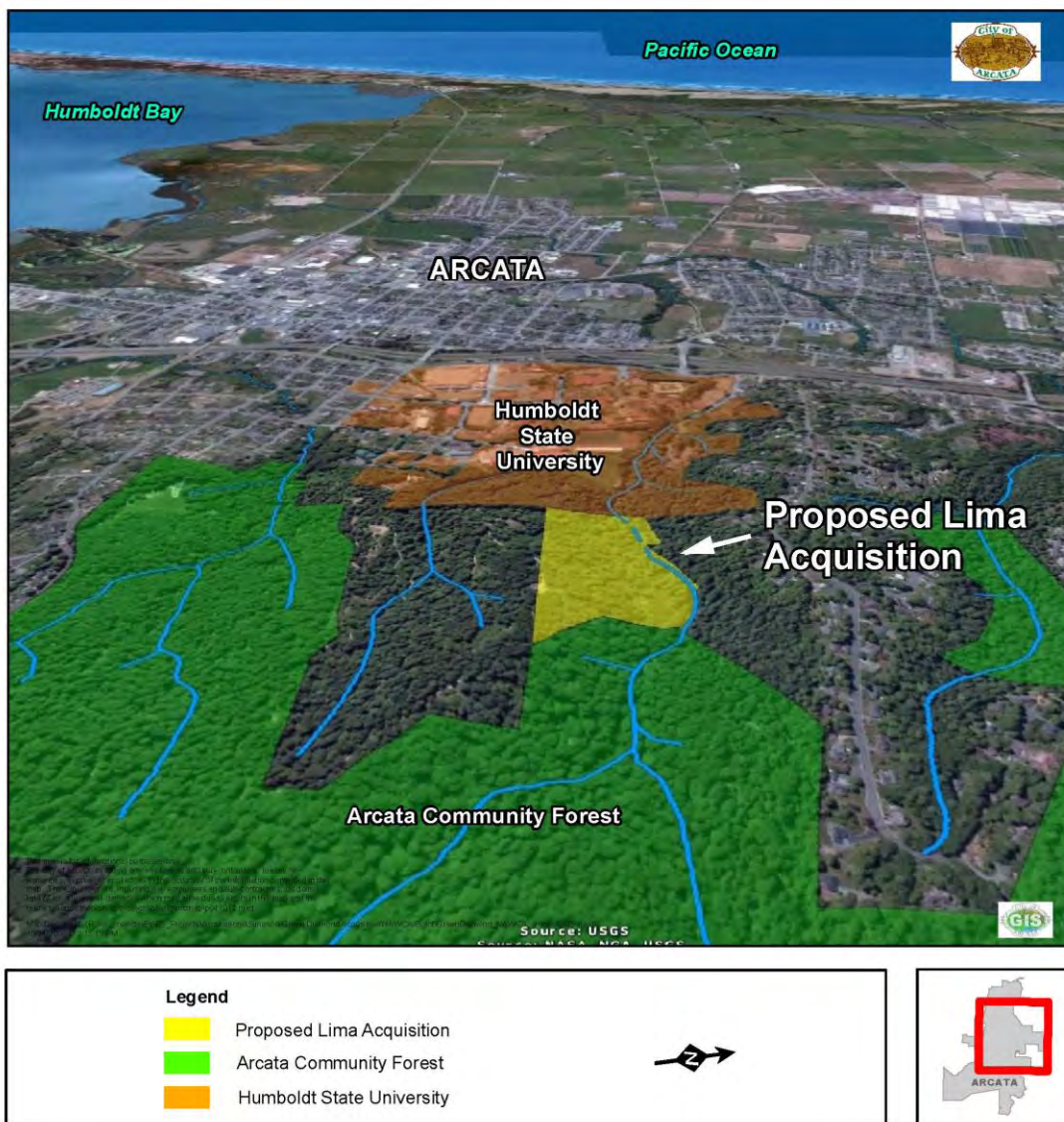


Acquisition of 20 acre private timber lands located between  
Humboldt State University and Arcata Community Forest

## Forest Legacy Program(GHG)

Project Location: 409805.1, 4525613.3 (UTM, NAD 83)  
-124.07 40.8775 (NAD 83)

USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Map: Arcata North Quadrangle  
Section 28 of T.6.N., R.1.E of HB & M



*Proposed 20 addition to the Arcata Community Forest for 2015*



*Jacoby Creek Forest canyon public hike with NR Technician Michael McDowall-June 2014*



JCF Thinning a Douglas fir stand

**Current Concepts Shaping  
Arcata's Management**

**Ecosystem Management and Restoration**

- Historical Range of Variation
  - pre-settlement conditions (Redwood NP) provides reference target
- Ecological Restoration
  - structure, function, composition and connectivity
- Disturbance Management
  - fuel reduction, invasive control





Post harvest-JCF



Selection cutting JCF



*Community-based forestry is a participatory approach to forest management that strengthens communities' capacity to build vibrant local economies—while protecting and enhancing their local forest ecosystems. By integrating ecological, social, and economic strategies into cohesive approaches to forestry issues, community-based approaches give local residents both the opportunity and the responsibility to manage their natural resources effectively and to enjoy the benefits of that responsibility. -Aspen*



**Volunteer trail work day in the SunnyBrae Unit- 3 mile long Beith Loop Trail**





**Key features of Arcata's program**

- The community benefits from resources conserved
- Community members support a conservation ethic and take pride in managing land for future generations
- Diverse viewpoints are respected and incorporated into the forest plan. A combination of working forests, special management areas, and ecological reserves create a balanced approach.



Arcata Ridge Trail volunteers



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