



MEMORANDUM

Presented at the September 5, 2018 City Council meeting

Date: August 9, 2018

To: Arcata City Council

From: Forest Management Committee (FMC)

Re: Forest Management Committee Annual Report to the Arcata City
Council for 2017 Activities

Forest Management Committee

Chair: Michael Furniss
Vice Chair: Dennis Halligan,
Jack Naylor
Russ Forsburg Yana
Valachovic Danny
Hagans
Ken Hoffman
Staff Liaison: Mark Andre

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 Institute

Introduction

The following information is a summary of the various projects and activities that involved the Forest Management Committee (FMC) during 2017. The Committee meets every other month on the second Thursday at 7:00 am or at the call of the chair and also conducts public field trips and evening meetings or workshops on occasion.

General

- A timber harvest was completed; 280 thousand-board-feet (MBF) gross scale total was harvested from the Jacoby Creek tract (JCF). The harvest was predominantly redwood (90%); and whitewoods (Douglas fir 10%). Staff planted 2,000 conifer seedlings were planted in the harvested area.
- Delivered 4,400 metric tonnes (mT) of forest carbon (Climate Reserve Tonnes) to various buyers.
- \$ 2,000 in local cash contributions were received to apply towards the forest trail and forest expansion efforts.

- Purchased 20 acres from John and Claudia Lima (\$255,000) and added it to the ACF on the western boundary. The City now has all the grant funding necessary for acquiring the \$645,000 49-acre Forsyth parcel east of HSU and north of Redwood Park with expected close of escrow by end of year. Funders are USDA; Ca. State Parks and CALFIRE. The City also received donations from the Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association for this project.
- After five years of progressive revegetation and soil placement the JCF rock quarry is deemed “reclaimed” and no longer regulated as a surface mine by the State of California and County of Humboldt. No more annual fees to be paid for this quarry.
- Developed additional trail connectivity to the Sunny Brae unit from Panorama Ct.
- The Committee continued work on the Forest Management Plan (FMP) update. The draft plan is finished. The CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration is finished. Staff and committee expect to bring this to council this fall after public review period.
- The Committee toured and reviewed the areas of the 2016 ACF timber harvest. A small number of community members joined as well as City Council member, Brett Watson. The Committee filled out scorecards for the 2016 harvest after the tour relating to the timber harvest practices and the Forest Management Plan goals.
- In 2017 the committee heard public interest in making the ACF a destination for adventure travelers including mountain bikers. Also the committee discussed the potential for a “jump track” in Redwood Park and support the city in that effort.
- 3-acres of young conifer stands were pre-commercially thinned to improve growth in the JCF in order to increase growth, reduce competition and improve forest health.
- Continued to work with HSU on the 967-acre City/College Forest partnership acquisition in the headwater region of the Jacoby Creek watershed. The City was successful in cobbling together all of the necessary grant funds totaling \$4.54M. The landowner generously agreed to a bargain sale as the property appraised for close to \$6M.
- Received a small \$600 grant from the HAF to plant native riparian trees along Jolly Giant Creek in the ACF.

Research and Monitoring

- Staff continued to monitor Pacific fisher (located now in all forest tracts) northern spotted owls, barred owls and other raptors. Northern spotted owl surveys in particular require a great deal of staff time. This species has persisted and reproduced in the JCF despite the presence of barred owls.
- Staff amended protection and monitoring measures in the NTMP for the Yellow Legged Frog per new listing requirements.

Roads/Trails/Watershed/Vegetation

- Continued development on the Ridge Trail, a recreational trail connecting City owned properties throughout Arcata (Council Priority). The final middle section at the Fickle Hill Crossing is expected to be completed this year. The West End Road trailhead parking areas has been expanded. The Beverly Drive trailhead and trail link to the Ridge
- Over 18 miles of roads and trails continue to be maintained at a high standard and

500 linear feet of forest road received rock surface application as well as crushed oyster shells from the Oyster Festival. The City also rocked and graded ¼ mile of the J-120 Road in the JCF. The City also rocked the rock adjacent to Jolly Giant Creek.

- Several community workdays involving **hundreds of volunteer hours** helped the City remove invasive plants, build trails and assist with litter cleanup.
- Several local middle school students once again utilized the ACF for science fair projects related to forest ecology.
- 3,500 redwood seedlings were planted in the JCF and 700 redwood seedlings, 50 western hemlock, 50 big leaf maple and 50 western red cedar were planted in the ACF.
- A new 40-foot long steel bridge was installed on the N. Fork Janes Creek Loop trail.
- Staff met with area residents at the proposed Fickle Hill crossing of the Arcata ridge trail.
- Trail # 4 was reconstructed and new bridge installed.

Education/Interpretation/Recreation

- Staff led one forest practice tours to local college classes and two lectures at Humboldt State University. The annual wildflower/forest ecology walk in the JCF once again had 20 plus attendees.
- The committee led a post-harvest field tour in the ACF.

2018/2019 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Committee will:

- Lead a Forest Management Committee public walk in the ACF to discuss silviculture and desired future conditions of forest stands in relation to the FMP update.
- Conduct a field trip to visit the SPI acquisition.
- Provide input on the FMP update and the development of a focused five-year management strategy, budget and revenue plan that provides for adding to the reserve fund. This is now part of the draft FMP update.
- 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.
- Strengthen cooperative partnership with Humboldt State University, Redwood Sciences Lab and College of the Redwoods to involve students, faculty and scientists in additional forest research projects,

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

JCF Timber Harvest





JCF Game camera (Mountain lion)



Volunteer workday ACF (Trail Stewards).

Community/Jacoby Creek Forest Timber Harvest Activity 1981-2017

