



## MEMORANDUM

Presented at the June 19, 2019 City Council meeting

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Date: June 19, 2019

To: Arcata City Council

From: Forest Management Committee (FMC)

Re: Forest Management Committee Annual Report to the Arcata City  
Council for 2019 Activities

### Forest Management Committee

Chair: Dennis Halligan,  
Vice Chair: Michael Furniss  
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 2019. 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; 430 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 3,000 conifer seedlings were planted in the harvested area.
- Delivered 9,203 metric tonnes (mT) of forest carbon (Climate Reserve Tonnes) to various buyers.
- \$ 4,000 in local cash contributions were received to apply towards the forest trail and forest expansion efforts.

- Purchased 49-acres from Cynthia Forsyth (\$625,000) and added it to the ACF on the western boundary. Purchased 83-acres from RH Emmerson & Son and added it to the JCF. The City also obtained all of the funding for the HSU Jacoby Creek Forest (884 acres). The total funding of both the JCF expansion and HSU forest was \$6.2M.
- The Committee continued worked 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 2018 ACF timber harvest. A small number of community members joined as well.
- The committee embraced the proposed mountain bike “jump track” in Redwood Park and supported the city in that effort.
- 2-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. In the ACF some red alders was felled or girdled in order to allow for additional sunlight on young conifers.

### ***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 re-inventoried two large ACF compartments.

### **Roads/Trails/Watershed/Vegetation**

- 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 JCF road system sustained some damage from the heavy winter rains that will need to be repaired this summer.
- City staff decommissioned several rogue trails.
- 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 150 redwood seedlings, 50 western hemlock, 50 big leaf maple were planted in the ACF.
- Staff met with area residents at the proposed Fickle Hill crossing of the Arcata Ridge Trail to work at details of this complex last portion of the trail.
- Conducted 12 service group volunteer workdays with focus on invasive plant removal, litter abatement and trail improvement.
- The Committee received a presentation from the redwood Mountain Bike Association regarding a desire for additional trails in the ACF. The Committee has a field trip to walk the new Forsyth property addition to the ACF with a focus on the existing road and trail system and how to integrate it into the overall trail system

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

- Staff led one forest practice tour for the Oregon State Forest Guild Student Chapter as well as local college classes. 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 JCF
- Hosted several racing and events in the ACF.

## **2019/2020 PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

The Committee will:

- Conduct a field trip to visit the SPI acquisition.
- Provide input on the FMP update and recreation plan for the new Lima and Forsyth additions to the ACF.
- Coordinate with other City advisory committees on matters of mutual interest such as the Redwood ark Master Plan.
- Continue to be involved in the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) amendments.
- Evaluate and provide advice on the Swaner 114- acre land acquisition. Strategic acquisitions improve the City's ability to effectively manage landscapes and timberland continues to be a good long-term investment. The City has \$760,000 in grant funds awarded to date for this \$1.5M property.
- Provide a forum for input on the proposed new ½ mile Beverley Drive to the - Arcata Ridge Trail connection as well as other trail improvements.
- 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, Work with HSU on long- term upper Jacoby Creek Forest data sharing and planning

## 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 FMC Post- harvest field review –cable unit







JCF Timber thinning in progress



Volunteer workday ACF (Trail Stewards).

Community/Jacoby Creek Forest Timber Harvest Activity 1981-2018

