

MEMORANDUM

Presented at the June 3, 2020 City Council meeting

Date: May 27, 2020

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 2019/2020. 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; 370 thousand-board-feet (MBF) gross scale total was harvested from the Arcata Community Forest Tract (ACF). The harvest was predominantly redwood (95%); and whitewoods (Douglas fir and grand fir 5%). 4,000 conifer seedlings were planted in the harvested area by the City NR crew.
- Delivered 9,356 metric tonnes (mT) of forest carbon (Climate Reserve Tonnes) to various buyers.
- Three grants have been secured for the Swaner Limited Partnership 114 addition to the JCF. Escrow is expected to close at end of June or July. This is an excellent addition to the JCF as it shares 1.5 miles of boundary line with the existing JCF.
- \$ 2,000 in local cash contributions were received to apply towards the forest trail

and forest expansion efforts.

- The committee reviewed a commercial cannabis permit adjacent to the JCF and made a recommendation to the City Council regarding setbacks from the public forest boundary.
- The required Climate Reserve six- year site visit and forest carbon inventory verification was successful and the city passed. Ruby Canyon Engineering conducted the exhaustive audit and field carbon verification. The forest growth modeled projections from 12 years ago fell within the required 5% tolerance. Project documents are available on the Climate Reserve website for review.
- The Committee discussed and recommended approval of the Parks, Open Space, and Trails Ballot Measure.
- Purchased 83-acres from RH Emerson & Son and added it the JCF. City staff have locate all of the property corner markers and will commence with the timber inventory in July-August 2020.
- 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 finally bring this to council this summer now that the Swaner addition can be brought into the FMP.
- The FMC recommended to the City Council that existing co-generation and biomass energy facilities in Humboldt County are an important part of the energy generation mix and are important components to the City's Community based forest management.

Research and Monitoring

- Staff continued to monitor pacific fisher (located now in all forest tracts including new Forsyth parcel) northern spotted owls, barred owls and other raptors. Northern spotted owl surveys in particular require a great deal of staff time.
- Staff re-inventoried the Lower Jolly Giant Creek management compartment and the recently acquired "Lima" 20- acre parcel.
- Staff conducted pre-field research, records search and survey for archology resources on the "Lima" and Forsyth" parcels for the NTMP amendment.

Roads/Trails/Watershed/Vegetation

- Over 18 miles of roads and trails continue to be maintained at a high standard and 2500 linear feet of forest road received rock surface application as well as crushed oyster shells from the Oyster Festival.
- City staff decommissioned several rogue trails. Some of the rouge trails have been decommissioned more than once.
- Several community workdays involving **hundreds of volunteer hours** helped the City remove invasive plants, build trails and assist with litter cleanup.
- Conducted 9 service group volunteer workdays with focus on invasive plant removal, litter abatement and trail improvement.
- The committee provided a neighborhood forum for input on the proposed new ½ mile Beverley Drive to the - Arcata Ridge Trail connection as well as other trail improvements in the Sunnybrae Unit.

- The committee reviewed the “pump track” facility design for Redwood Park and the Forsyth parcel directional mountain bike trail improvements that are currently undergoing environmental review and permitting.
- The committee provided input on a trail re-route on the Samuels conservation easement portion of the Arcata Ridge Trail.

2020/2021 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Committee will:

- Conduct a field trip to visit the SPI acquisition and participate with the HSU-JCF planning process.
- 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 Park Master Plan.
- Continue to be involved in the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) amendments.
- 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. Attaching research to this unit would be beneficial to the region.

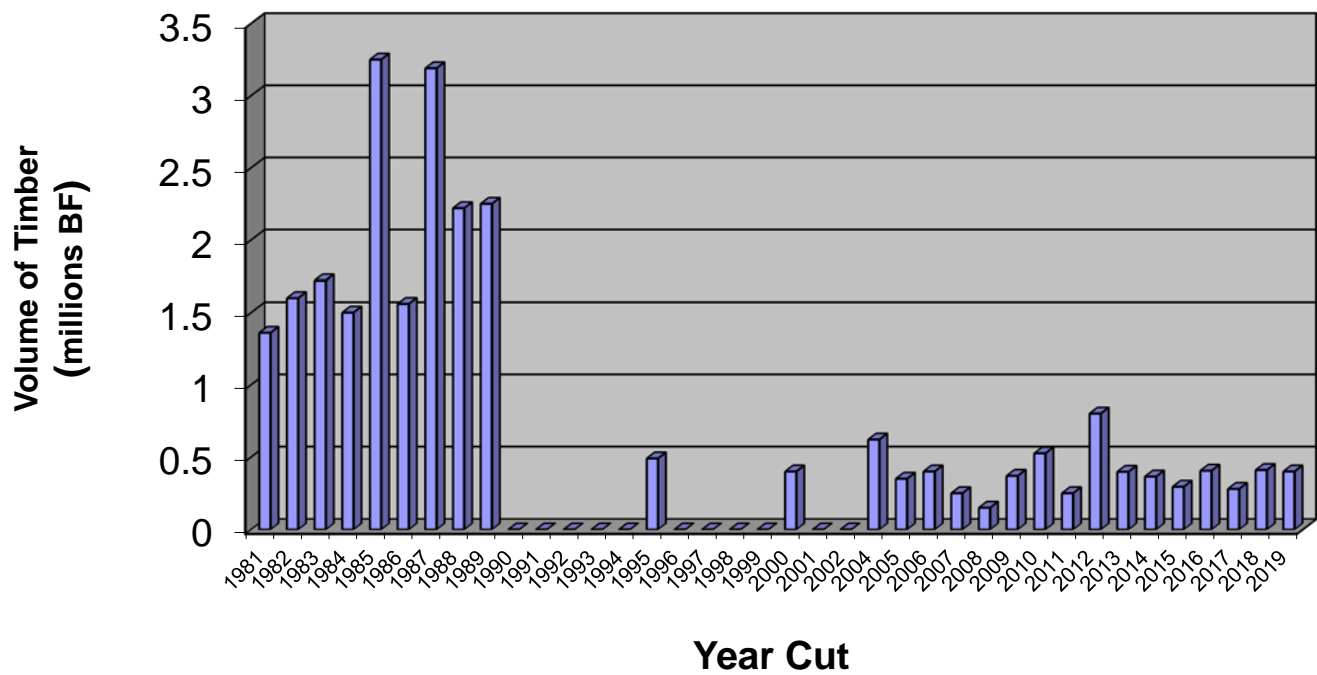
ACF 2019 timber harvest. Redwood Forest Product Inc.





Old growth trees south slope in the Jacoby Creek Forest near Greenwood Hts. Rd.
Periodic visit to long-term continuous forest inventory plots.

Community Forest Timber Harvest Activity 1981-2020 25.8 MMBF



Pacific fisher on the Swaner parcel being added to the JCF 2020.

