



MEMORANDUM

Presented at the June 17, 2009 City Council meeting

Date: June 9, 2009

To: Arcata City Council

From: Forest Management Committee (FMC)

Re: Forest Management Committee Annual Report to the Arcata City
Council for 2008/2009

Chair: Russ Forsburg
Vice-Chair: Lisa Hoover
Jack Naylor
Jerry Barnes
Lowell Diller
Mike Furniss (Appointed July 31, 2008)
Danny Hagans

INTRODUCTION

The following information is a summary of the various activities of the Forest Management Committee (FMC) during 2008/2009.

General

- 121 acres (Lima) was added to the Jacoby Creek Forest in August 2008.
- A rather small timber harvest (150 mbf) was conducted in the Jacoby Creek Forest.
- The Jacoby Creek road system received significant upgrades.
- The committee provided advice on the recently completed 180 acre BI Investments conservation easement adjacent to the Arcata Community Forest.
- The City secured a grant in the amount of \$350,000 to apply towards the purchase of the 25-acre Stromberg addition to the Sunny Brae Forest. \$90,000 is still needed to close this transaction.
- The committee provided input and advice regarding the potential (in progress) Morris and Schmidbauer additions to the Sunny Brae Forest. (SBF). If successful, these key additions will provide for a much more manageable land base for this forest.
- The committee provided input on a CO2 emissions reduction project (carbon market) that should provide revenue especially helpful during a down timber market.
- The committee provided input on the Trillium Creek subdivision.

Research and Monitoring

- Staff continued to monitor northern spotted owls, barred owls and other raptors
- Staff and consultants completed timber and carbon inventory for the Sunny Brae Forest, Barnum and Lucchessi tracts totaling 791 acres.

Roads/Trails/Watershed/Vegetation

- Consultants are completing a road and erosion survey and plan for the Sunny Brae Forest under a Fish and Game grant agreement.
- Staff hosted 9 public workdays in the Community Forest that allowed for hundreds of volunteers to become involved with the program.
- The committee conducted a field reconnaissance of the proposed trail route from the northern Arcata Community Forest to West End Road via the new conservation easement.
- Provided input on a recreational trail plan connecting to other city owned properties throughout Arcata. (Council Priority 36). The plan is now known as the Arcata Ridge Route.
- Over 17 miles of roads and trails continue to be maintained at a high standard.

Education/Interpretation/Recreation

- The Arcata Community Forest hosted 4 events that required special use permits.
- Staff led a wildflower walk through Jacoby Creek Canyon; hosted National Geographic representatives and led a field trip as part of the Forestry Futures regional workshop.
- The City's community-based forestry model will be featured as a case study in a new book titled *Social Dimensions of Restoration*, published by Island Press.
- Staff participated in a technical panel on sustainable forestry sponsored by the California Coalition of Land Trusts.
- The City Forest Program was featured in Community Forestry Handbook national publication.
- The Forest Activity sponsored two visiting lecturers at the Marsh Interpretive Center that were well attended by the public.
- 2009/2010 Planned Activities

The Committee will:

- Lead a Forest Management Committee public walk in the Arcata Community Forest.
- Work with other committees on continued implementation of the open space program especially in the development of funding sources.
- Continue to work with staff to revive a "Friends of the Forest" cadre of volunteers to assist with patrolling the roads and trail system.
- Continue to be involved in the Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) development and Park Master Plan process.
- 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.

- Provide input on development of focused revenue plan that provides for adding to the reserve fund.
- Strengthen cooperative partnership with Humboldt State University and try to involve students in more community forest projects.
- Provide input on the focused management plan for the Stromberg addition.

Timber Inventory Status

The forest is being managed to maximize habitat diversity with an emphasis to grow late-seral forest habitat (move the forest towards an old-growth condition). Management priorities include watershed, wildlife habitat, recreation, carbon sequestration and timber harvest revenue. Wildlife habitat objectives drive the silviculture. Silvicultural systems include selection, group selection and variable retention. Approximately 35% of the land base is in reserves. The current timber inventory on the land available for timber production is 67 million board feet. The maximum allowable annual harvest is approximately ½ of the annual growth increment on the “working landscape” portion (excluding the reserves). This amount is 700 thousand board feet. Therefore, the forests continue to accrue volume and age over time.

The 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*