



MEMORANDUM

Presented at the June 16, 2010 City Council meeting

Date: June 9, 2010

To: Arcata City Council

From: Forest Management Committee (FMC)

Re: Forest Management Committee Annual Report to the Arcata City Council for 2009/2010



COMMITTEE

Chair: Russ Forsburg
Vice-Chair: Lisa Hoover (Resigned January 2010)
Jack Naylor
Jerry Barnes
Lowell Diller
Mike Furniss
Danny Hagans
Yana Valachovic (Appointed March 17, 2010)

INTRODUCTION

The following information is a summary of the various activities of the Forest Management Committee (FMC) during fiscal year 2009/2010.

General

- BI Investments donated a 185-acre conservation easement adjacent to the Arcata Community Forest's northern boundary in the upper Janes Creek watershed.
- Acquisition of 25 acres adjacent to the Sunny Brae Forest (Stromberg) is scheduled for June 30.
- Recommended that the City pursue acquisition of property on the South Fork Janes Creek owned by Green Diamond Resource Company.
- Committee Members conducted a post-harvest evaluation of the 2008 timber harvest in Jacoby Creek Forest.
- A timber harvest was completed; 120 thousand-board-feet (MBF) from the Arcata Community Forest and 262 MBF from the Jacoby Creek Forest.
- A Caltrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation grant in the amount of \$350,000 was awarded for acquisition of the 110 acre Morris addition to the Sunny Brae Forest.
- Appraisal for the acquisition of 5 acre parcel (Humphry) adjacent to Arcata Community Forest is in progress.
- The Committee conducted a field trip to Jacoby Creek quarry.
- Entered into an agreement with PG&E to sell carbon credits from the Sunny Brae and Jacoby Creek Forests.
- Monitored the County General Plan update and potential to affect City holdings.
- Conducted a post harvest tour in the Jacoby Creek Forest.
- Completing registration of the sequestration project with the Climate Action Reserve.
- Award of the 2010 timber sale contract is set for the June 16 City Council meeting.

Research and Monitoring

- Staff continued to monitor northern spotted owls, barred owls and other raptors.
- In Jacoby Creek Forest, established and set up monitoring stations for Fishers. A fisher was caught on film in the Jacoby Creek Forest.

- With a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative, checked on the habitat suitability for Marbled Murrelet in the Lucchesi tract of the Jacoby Creek Forest.
- Staff and consultants completed a detailed timber and carbon inventory and modeling for the Sunny Brae Forest, Barnum and Lucchesi tracts totaling 791 acres. The inventory data was used to model various management scenarios over a 100 year period.

Roads/Trails/Watershed/Vegetation

- Consultants completed a road and erosion survey and plan for the Sunny Brae Forest. This project was funded by a grant from the California Department of Fish and Game. Staff applied for funding for road decommissioning and City should find out by August 2010 if the grant will be awarded.
- Continued development on the ridge route, a recreational trail plan connecting city-owned properties throughout Arcata. (Council Priority 36).
- Submitted a grant to the State of California Recreational Trails Program for acquisition of property from Green Diamond Resource property for development of a trail from West End Road into the Community Forest.
- Over 17 miles of roads and trails continue to be maintained at a high standard.
- With representatives from local mountain bicycle groups, surveyed for an additional trail in the Community Forest near the power line which is now under construction.

Education/Interpretation/Recreation

- Gave three forest practice tours to local college classes, two lectures at Humboldt State University and one talk to the Congressional Open Space Caucus in Washington, D.C.
- The Arcata Community Forest hosted four events that required special use permits: 12 hrs of Humboldt Bike Race; 350.org photo shoot; a local TV commercial; and Big Foot Race-5K run
- Staff led a wildflower walk through Jacoby Creek Canyon.
- A mushroom walk through Jacoby Creek Forest was led by a representative of the local mycological association.
- The Forest Activity sponsored two visiting lecturers at the Marsh Interpretive Center that were well attended by the public. Forty-four people were in attendance for a presentation by Jason Teraoka, the Forester for Redwood State and National Parks, who gave a presentation on *Forest Management and the Swinging Pendulum: A 30-Year Retrospective on Forest Restoration at Redwood National and State Parks*. The staff biologist of the Hoopa tribe, J. Mark Higley, gave a presentation on *Fisher Research at Hoopa; Implications for Forest Management* at which 53 people were in attendance.
- Approved segway tours in the Arcata Community Forest.
- Five ropes courses were held with a total of 107 people participating.

2010/2011 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) 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.
- 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.
- Provide policy input on the potential for “de-annexation” of the old Jacoby Creek Forest (562 acres) which was established as part of city limits years ago.
- Review and monitor this summer’s planned harvest activities.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the annual growth increment on the “working landscape” portion (excluding the reserves). This amount is 500-600 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.

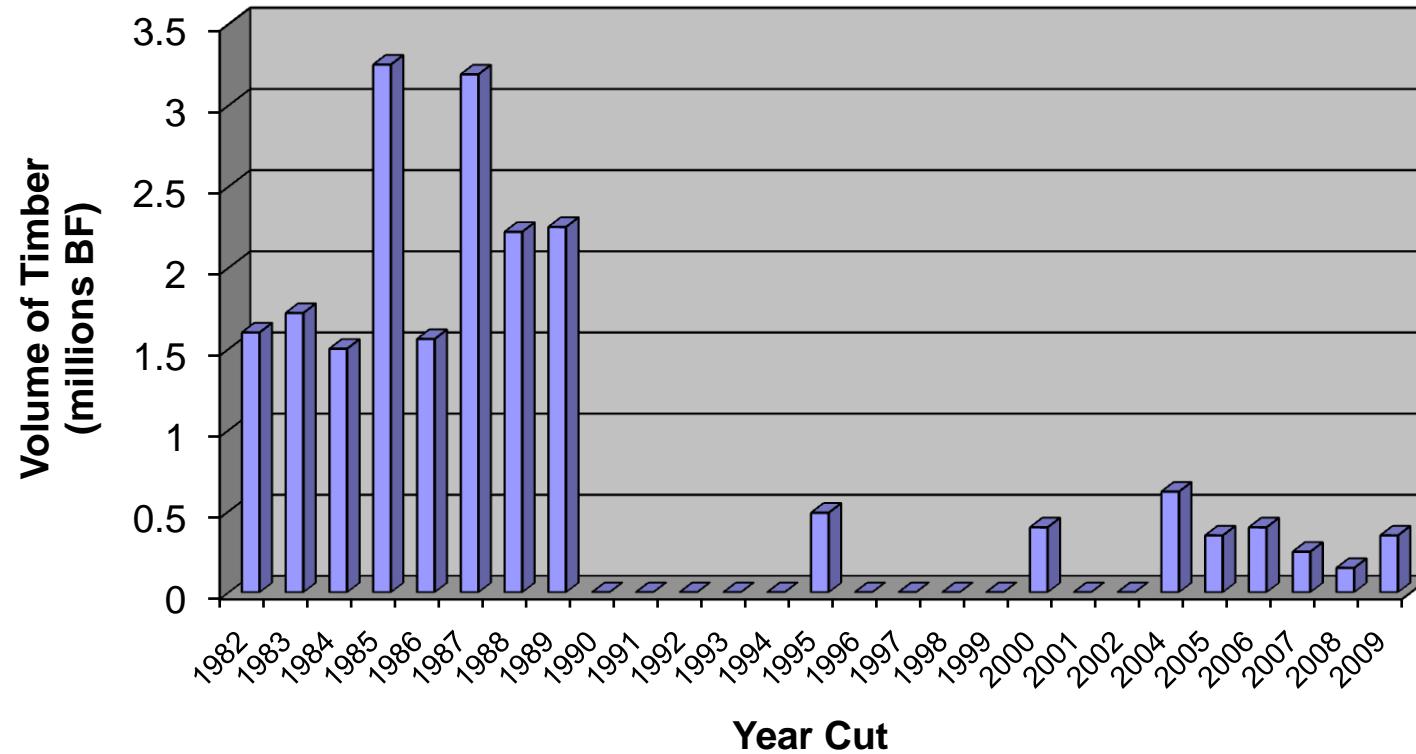
**Adopted following public scoping/visioning process in 2001*

2009 INVENTORY

	Total Current City Forest
Sunny Brae Forest	8.03 MBF
Arcata Community Forest*	38 MBF
Jacoby Creek Forest*	26 MBF
Lima Tract	1.2 MBF
Lucchesi Tract	3 MBF
Barnum Tract	3.7 MBF
	79.93 MMBF

* Excludes reserves and creek zones

Community/Jacoby Creek Forest Timber Harvest Activity 1981-2009 Net Volume





Arcata Community Forest, Arcata, CA.

Community Based Forestry at the Municipal Level in Northern California



Arcata Community Forest

The Arcata Community Forest established in 1955, comprises 2109 acres of second growth redwood forest in Humboldt County California. Community Forests are relatively rare in the western United States, but recently there has been an increasing interest and effort to establish community forests in many areas. Timber harvest revenue funds forest operations, habitat restoration and management of the forest for recreational uses. A combination of workings forest areas, special management areas and ecological reserves create a balanced management approach. Community forestry in Arcata is designed to provide local residents the opportunity and responsibility to manage their natural resources.

The forest is a recreational draw in the region due its extensive trail system that supports hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

The forest management goals are:

1. *Maintain the health of the forest system, specifically, maintain the integrity of the watershed, wildlife, fisheries and plant resources, their relationships and the process through which they interact with their environment.*
2. *Produce marketable forest products and income to the City in perpetuity, balancing timber harvest and growth.*
3. *The Community Forest shall also be managed to provide forest recreational opportunities for the Community.*
4. *The City's forests shall serve as models of managed redwood forests for demonstration purposes.*

The property is owned by the City and managed by the City's Environmental Services Department. A volunteer Forest Management Committee advises staff and the City Council on forest policy matters. The Committee consists of seven members with backgrounds and expertise in botany, forest ecology, wildlife, fisheries, geology, recreation and forestry. All committee meetings are public meetings whereby the public is encouraged to attend and participate.

The main parts of the forests were purchased more than 50 years ago from medium sized forest landowners. Recent additions include transactions with larger timber companies and or industrial forest landowners. The recent acquisitions are intended to create an urban limit line. The establishment of the Community Forest as a "Community Forest occurred in 1955 and was done so by the City Council.

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



The operation of the community forest is tied to the approved forest management plans and a 1979 voter approved initiative to manage the forests using “ecological principles” with a portion of the net revenue to be used for parkland acquisition. The Arcata Forest was the first municipal forest certified in the U.S. under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Currently, the Community Forest generates approximately \$500,000 of revenue per year which is more than is needed to be self-supporting. No tax revenues are used for the forest management activity. Excess net revenue is used to purchase and maintain other City parkland and open space. Several parks and open space areas have been purchased with timber harvest revenue, including the City’s main Community Park. The City pays timber yield tax to the state on timber harvested even though it does not pay property tax.

The forest is being managed to maximize habitat diversity with an emphasis to move the forest towards an old-growth condition. Management priorities include watershed, wildlife habitat, recreation, carbon sequestration and timber harvest revenue. 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the annual growth increment on the “working landscape” portion (excluding the reserves). Therefore, the forests are accruing volume and age over time.

For questions, please contact Mark Andre, City of Arcata, at mandre@cityofarcata.org (707) 822-8184 x 2154



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 Forest Trail System & Potential Trail Segments

Legend

- Proposed Ridge Trail
- Other Proposed Trails
- ACF Roads
- ACF Trails
- Arcata City Limits
- Simpson Acquisitions
- Proposed Acquisitions
- Arcata Community Forest
- Creeks

*Proposed Ridge Trail length:
19,868 Feet or 3.8 Miles



0 1,000 2,000 Feet

This map includes 0.809 feet of
existing trail in the Arcata Community Forest.

