



MEMORANDUM

Presented at the July 20, 2011 City Council meeting

Date: July 13, 2011

To: Arcata City Council

From: Forest Management Committee (FMC)

Re: Forest Management Committee Annual Report to the Arcata City Council for 2010/2011



Arcata Community Forest, Morning, August 2010

COMMITTEE

Chair: Russ Forsburg
Jack Naylor
Jerry Barnes
Lowell Diller
Mike Furniss
Danny Hagans
Yana Valachovic

INTRODUCTION

The following information is a summary of the various activities of the Forest Management Committee (FMC) during fiscal year 2010/2011.



Arcata Community Forest Work Day volunteers Fall 2010

General

- Acquisition of 25 acres adjacent to the Sunny Brae Forest (Stromberg) closed in October 2010..
- A 16 acre property on the South Fork Janes Creek owned by Green Diamond Resource Company is expected to close escrow by end of September 2011.
- A timber harvest was completed; 550 thousand-board-feet (MBF) from the Arcata Community Forest...
- The Wildlife Conservation Board has scheduled the Schmidbauer (22 acres) and Morris (114 acres) acquisitions for their August 25, 2011 Board meeting for a total 136 acre expansion of the Sunny Brae Forest. These acquisitions will enable the management plan for the SBF to move forward.
- Appraisal for the acquisition of 5 acre parcel (Humphry) adjacent to Arcata Community Forest was completed and staff expect to apply for funding in October 2011.
- The City forest program was featured in the Forestland Steward publication.
- Monitored the County General Plan update and potential to affect City holdings.
- Conducted a post harvest tour in the Arcata Forest.
- Completing registration of the sequestration project with the Climate Action Reserve.
- Award of the 2011 timber sale contract is set for the August 17, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Work on the Ridge Trail is in progress on the Samuels Conservation easement segment. Ridge Trail fundraisers are planned for September and October and the FMC supports and applauds the public participation and support of these efforts.
- The Committee recommended accepting from Diane DeFord a conservation easement adjacent to the Arcata Community Forest.
- The Committee recommended to the City Council write to the state Board of Forestry recommending raising the acreage limits in Non-industrial Timber Management Plans.

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.

Roads/Trails/Watershed/Vegetation

- 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 Company 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, completed a new trail in the Community Forest near the power line.

Education/Interpretation/Recreation

- Gave four forest practice tours to local college classes, two lectures at Humboldt State University and one online talk hosted by the UC Forestry Extension at Berkeley.
- The Arcata Community Forest hosted four events that required special use permits: Race for the Ridge, 12 hrs of Humboldt Bike Race.
- Staff led a ecology walk through Jacoby Creek Canyon.
- A mushroom walk through Jacoby Creek Forest was led by a representative of the local mycological association.

2011/2012 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 a 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.
- In the Sunny Brae Forest, decommissioning of roads adjacent to Beith Creek will commence later this summer.

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*



Timber Harvest August 2010

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*