

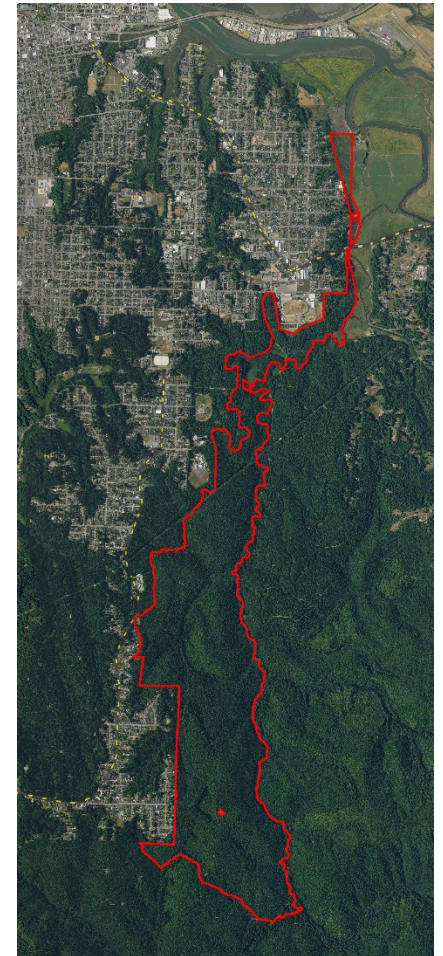
McKay Community Forest: Draft Forest Stewardship Plan



Online Public Meeting

May 12, 2022

6:00 to 7:30 pm



Jared Gerstein
Mark Andre



Hank Seemann
Bob Vogt



Natalie Arroyo
Chris Lohofener



Tonight's Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
6:00 - 6:15 pm	Welcome - presenter introductions, ground rules, and introductory group questions	Redwood Community Action Agency staff
6:15 - 6:50 pm	Short presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of the Forest Stewardship Plan & Trail Plan• Forestry and management approaches• Lessons learning in community forestry and what to expect in coming years	Hank Seemann (County of Humboldt) Jared Gerstein (BBW & Associates) Mark Andre (BBW and Associates)
6:50 - 7:20 pm	Questions and community feedback poll	Redwood Community Action Agency staff
7:20 - 7:30 pm	Closing comments and how to get more information	Hank Seemann (County of Humboldt)



Goals for Tonight's Meeting

- To share an overview of the Forest Stewardship Plan, including:
 - Public access and recreation
 - Forest management
 - Timber harvest
 - Habitat restoration
- To receive input on priorities for the McKay Community Forest
- To share information about what to expect in the next few months



Ground Rules/Key Information

- Mute via Zoom when not speaking
- Please hold questions until the end of the short presentations
- Share the airtime
- Stay on the agenda
- Listen to understand
- Notify our team via the Zoom chat or other means if you are having technical difficulties
- The meeting is being recorded for future viewing and video will be available via the County's project website

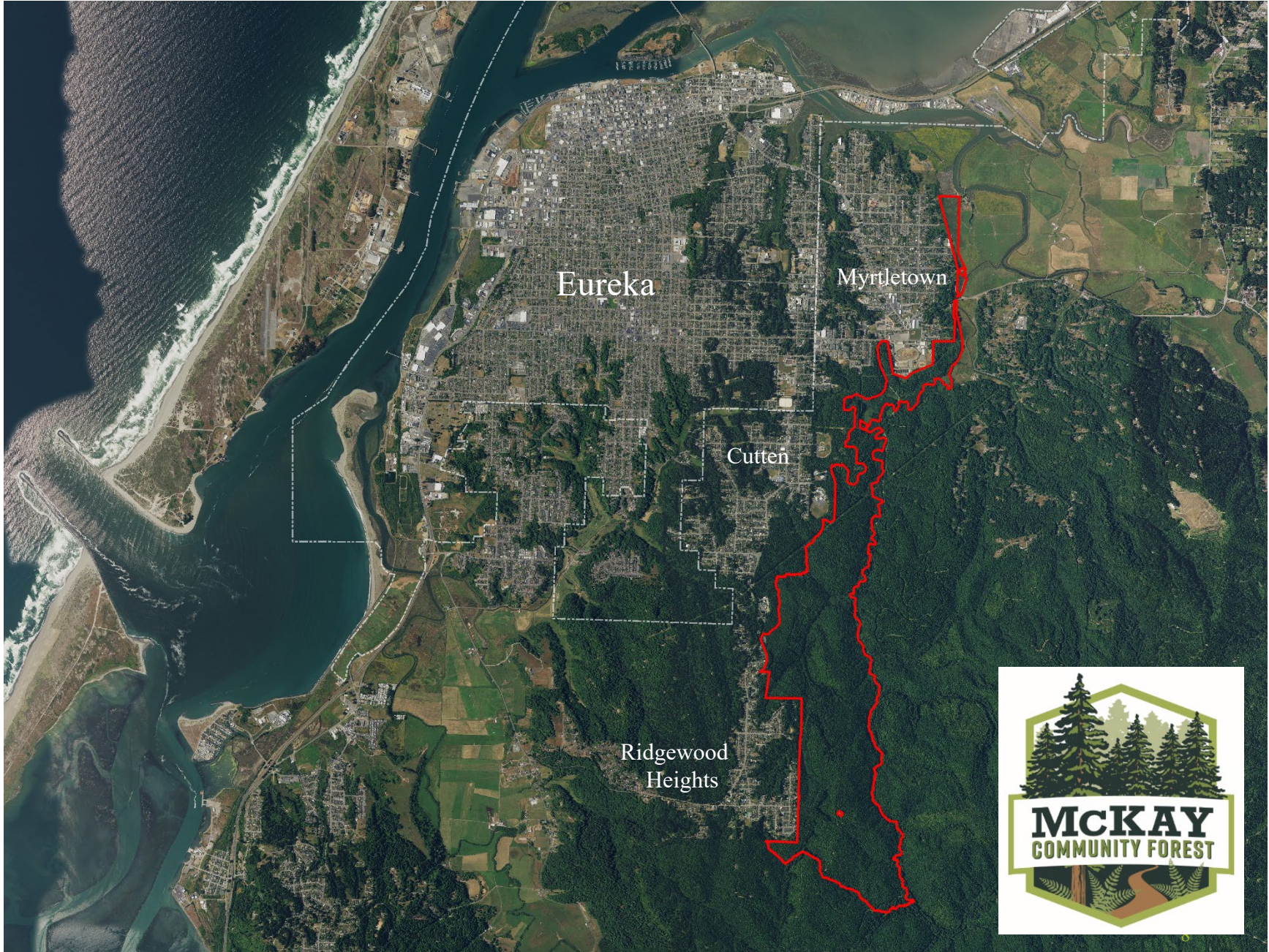


Poll
questions
1-4

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES



Hank Seemann, Public Works Deputy-Director
Humboldt County



Eureka

Myrtle town

Cutten

Ridgewood
Heights





← Ryan Creek

Photo date: February 25, 2014



Redwood Fields

Winship School

Bob Hill Gulch

Henderson Gulch

Ryan Creek

Ryan Creek

Photo date: February 25, 2014



Winship School

Redwood Fields

Redwood Acres

Myrtle Avenue

Ryan Creek

Photo date: February 25, 2014

McKay Community Forest Trail Plan

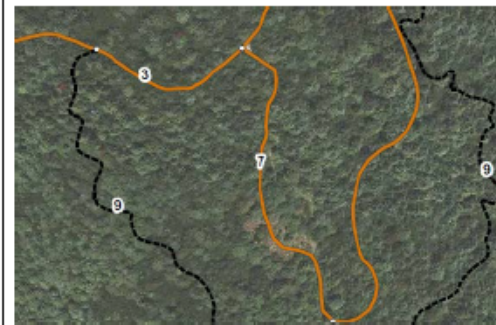
(December 16, 2020)

- 85 comment letters on draft plan
- Lays out a network of 31 miles of trails
- Presents guiding principle and design standards
- Discusses short-term and long-term access points
- Environmental report (CEQA document) will be released soon for 30-day public review

DECEMBER 16, 2020

McKay Community Forest Trail Plan

Eureka, Cutton, Myrtle town, Ridgewood Heights
Ryan Creek Watershed, Humboldt County



Prepared by:

Humboldt County Department of Public Works
1106 Second Street, Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 445-7741
www.humboldt.gov/mckay

McKay Community Forest Forest Stewardship Plan (April 22, 2022)

- Comments welcome through May 31, 2022
- Will serve as guidance document for next 10-15 years
- Focuses on forest management, timber harvest, habitat restoration, wildfire risk
- Describes existing conditions
- Presents management goals and objectives, guiding principles, conservation measures
- Companion to Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan

April 22, 2022

Draft McKay Community Forest Stewardship Plan Eureka, Cutten, Myrtle town, Ridgewood Heights Ryan Creek Watershed, Humboldt County



Humboldt County
Public Works Department
1106 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501

BBW & Associates
494 H Street, Suite B
Arcata, CA 95521

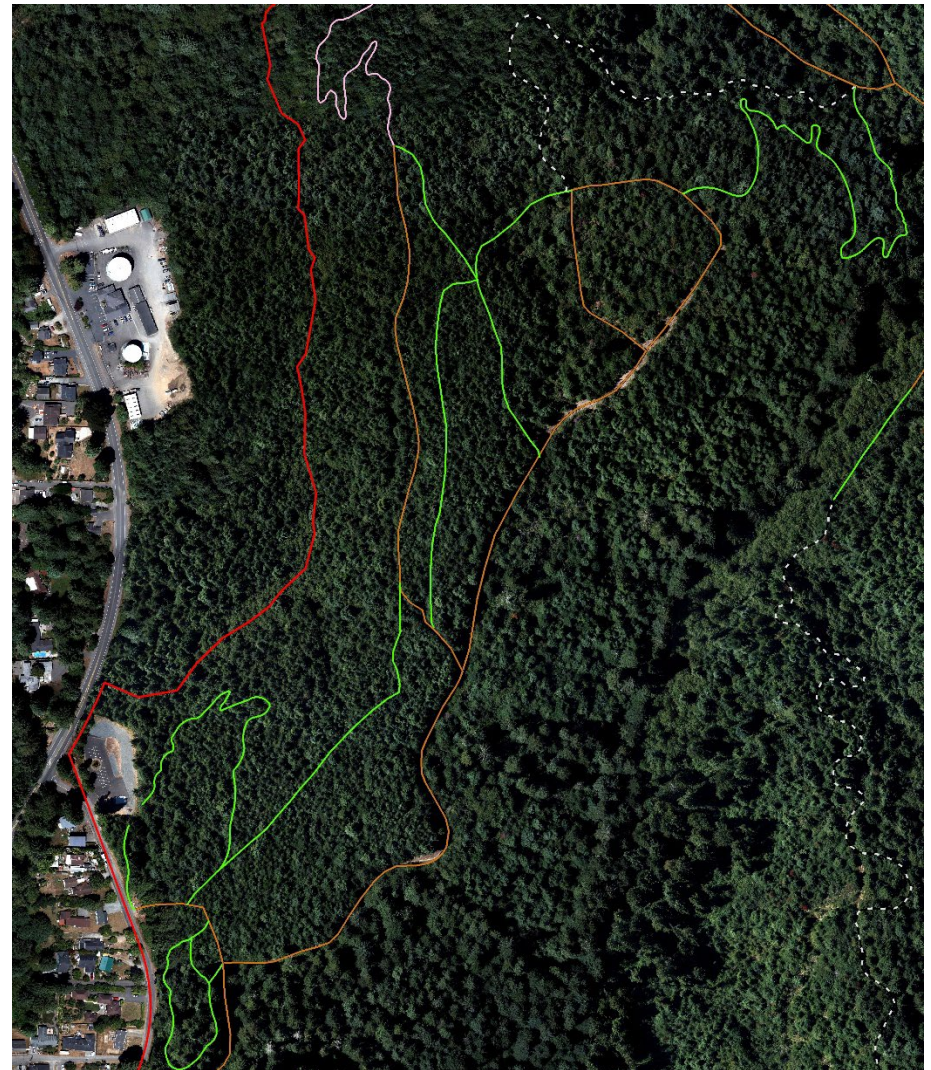
www.humboldt.gov/mckayforest





Public Access and Recreation

- Diverse, high-quality experiences for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities
- An off-street parking area on Northridge Road will be first primary access point, with additional access points over time
- Proposed network of 31 miles of trails:
 - multi-use trails
 - hiking trails
 - mountain bike trails
 - multi-use roads (logging roads)
 - accessible trails
- Stewardship is a guiding principle
- Trail-building with support from Volunteer Trail Stewards, Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association, hopefully others

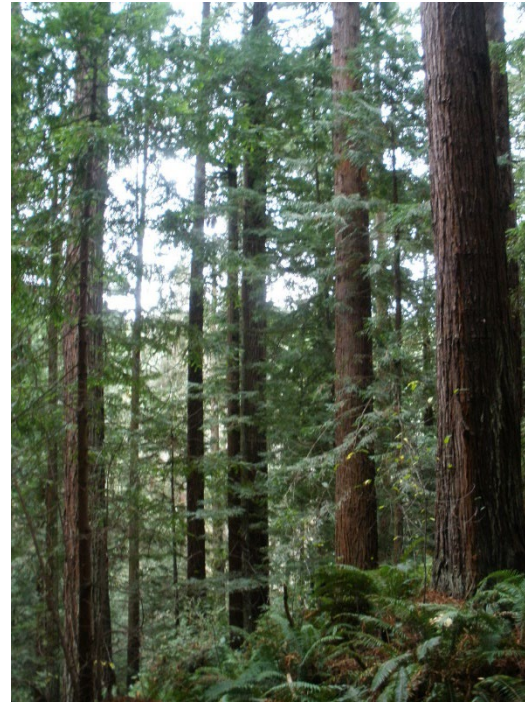


Proposed trail network near Northridge Road



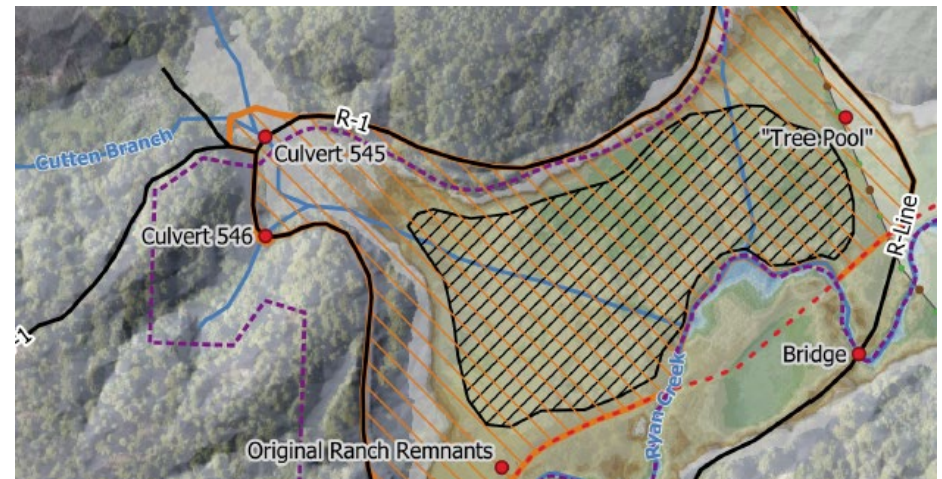
Forest Management

- Principles of ecological forest management
- Forest Practice Rules and companion regulations protect public trust resources
- Existing conditions: mostly uniform, young, even-age trees, low structural diversity
- Desired future conditions: a diverse forest with mixed-age trees and complex structural characteristics
- Collaborate with neighbors to reduce wildfire risk and manage fuel levels



Habitat Restoration

- Enhance forest structure
- Follow guidelines for managing core areas around activity centers for northern spotted owls
- Treat controllable sediment sources
- Hydrologic disconnection of logging roads and landings from watercourses
- Proper design of watercourse crossings
- Restore and enhance off-channel stream habitat
- Protect and enhance riparian habitat



Planning project along Cutten Branch of Ryan Creek to begin this year (led by RCAA)



Community Involvement

- Volunteer Trail Stewards
 - If you're interested in volunteering, send an e-mail to vtscordinator@humtrails.org
- Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association
- Open to exploring relationships with other groups and organizations
- McKay Community Forest Advisory Group
 - Applications will be posted in November
- Friends of the McKay Community Forest Fund (Humboldt Area Foundation)
- Quarterly newsletter starting 2023
- Many future opportunities, depending on community interest and support





When will the trails be open?

- The environmental report (CEQA document) will be released within the next few weeks for 30-day public review
- Trail-building is planned to start this summer
- Unauthorized trail-building is prohibited
- Existing roads and trails exist (no signs, condition is variable): please be respectful of adjacent property owners and other users
- The goal is to open the Northridge Road parking area later this summer



How to comment on the draft Forest Stewardship Plan

- The draft plan is available at www.humboldt.gov/mckayforest
- Send e-mail or letter to mckayforest@co.humboldt.ca.us
- An optional comment form is posted on the website



Jared Gerstein, Registered Professional Forester
BBW & Associates

Forestry in the McKay Community Forest

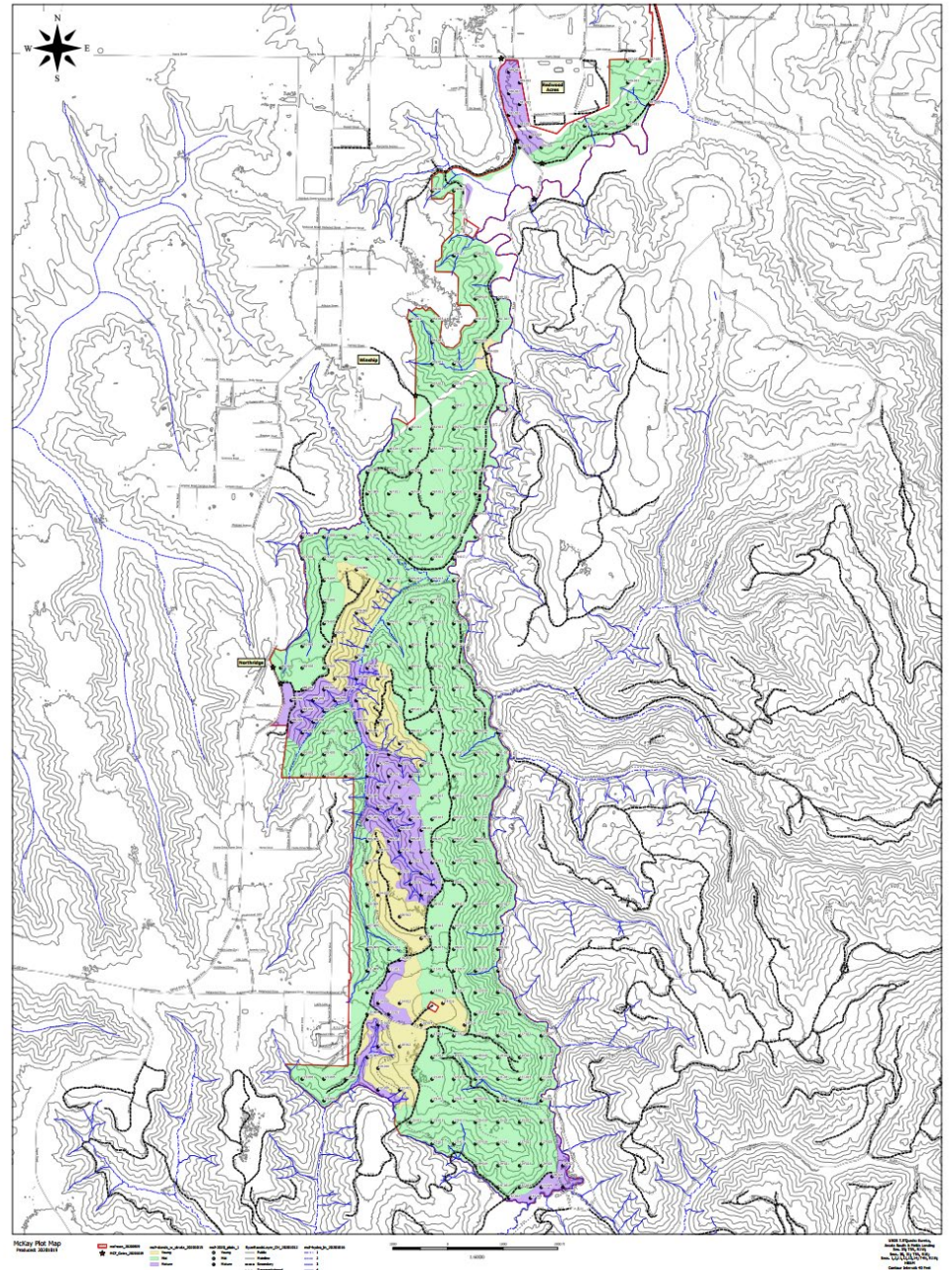


- What type of forest do we have now?
 - Site I and II redwood dominated, most productive in world, mostly young trees
- Where do we want to go?
 - Bigger older trees, more complex structure, more resilient forests
- How do we get there?
 - Uneven aged silviculture, light touch harvests, cut less than growth
- Who else is doing this?
 - City of Arcata
 - Redwood State and National Parks
 - Save the Redwoods League

Age Composition

3rd growth trees (<45 years) are most common on the McKay Community Forest

- **Young** (10-20 years) 138 acres
 - 500-600 trees per acre
- **Mid** (25-45 years) 800 acres
 - 300-400 trees per acre
- **Older** (80+ years) 122 acres
 - 100-200 trees per acre



Third Growth Trees (25 to 45 years old)

- High stem density
- High fuel loads
- Few understory plants
- Many dead trees
- Common across redwood region



Second Growth Trees (50 to 120 years old)

- Stands located west of Redwood Acres and near Henderson Gulch
- Larger trees, further apart with understory species re-establishing
- Lower fuel loads on forest floor
- Easy to walk through
- Less common in the redwood region



Forestry in the McKay Community Forest



Silviculture

- Silviculture will be uneven aged management (no clearcutting)
 - Increase structural complexity (snags, down logs, complex canopy)
 - Larger, older trees over time
 - Increase resiliency (multi species and cohorts, decreased fuel loads)
 - Increase plant and wildlife diversity
 - Increase standing biomass, stored carbon and timber volume
- Harvest across age and size classes, single trees and small groups

Forestry in the McKay Community Forest



Harvest

- Harvest areas of 50 to 100 acres per year
- Harvest areas will be re-entered every 10 to 20 years
- Approximately 20-40% of the volume of timber will be removed at each entry (60-80% retention)
- Growth rates will exceed harvest rates, as only 50-60% of growth will be harvested in any period
- Slower growing, damaged, and poorly formed trees targeted for removal
- Residual trees grow faster with more light, less competition

Forestry in the McKay Community Forest



Regulation

- CAL FIRE is lead agency, part of multi-agency team
- The Forest Practice Rules are a detailed, prescriptive, comprehensive and science-based regulatory framework that tightly constrains forestry operations
- Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) is the permit that will govern harvesting at McKay, 50+ year CEQA compliant permit
- Need to file Notice of Timber Operations (NTO) at each harvest to describe annual work plan

Forestry in the McKay Community Forest



Logging

- Licensed Timber Operators (LTOs) required for all harvests
- Logging equipment will depend on terrain: ground-based tractors on gentle slopes; cable yarders and tethered equipment on steep slopes
- Equipment is evolving to increase worker safety, decrease environmental impacts, and increase harvest efficiency
- Logging systems have evolved from dragging logs downhill through creeks to yarding uphill to roads far from creeks
- Every harvest entry is an opportunity to use heavy equipment to remove legacy sediment sources and upgrade or remove existing roads

Selection Silviculture

- Trees removed individually or in small groups



- Local loggers, variety of equipment



Harvest in 60-year-old stand within Arcata Community Forest



Accelerating transition to older stand characteristics provides wildlife habitat that is in short supply (big, old trees) sooner

Studies funded by Save the Redwoods League demonstrate effectiveness of restoration silviculture



A study found that thinned areas supported higher populations of prey species for the endangered northern spotted owl (pictured) and the rare Humboldt marten.

For many years, selective thinning has been considered a potential tool for accelerating old-growth forest characteristics in the dense stands of young trees that typically cover harvested redwood lands. Now, research by the US Forest Service has confirmed the wisdom of thinning, or removing select trees to reduce competition in a stand.

A League-supported study by Keith Slauson, a wildlife biologist and ecologist with the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station in Arcata, California, determined that **birds and small mammals benefited from thinning programs over the short and long terms.**

Effects of Forest Restoration on Mesocarnivores in the Northern Redwood Region of California

by Save the Redwoods League on July 28, 2010





Mark Andre, Registered Professional Forester
BBW & Associates



Elements of Community Forestry

- 1. Ecological:** Restoring forest ecosystems and defining sustainability
- 2. Social:** Building trust (social license) and relationships among diverse stakeholders
- 3. Economic:** Reinvesting revenue into the community and supporting livelihoods based upon natural resources



Ecosystem Forest Management

- Ecosystem-based approach: integration of restoration, conservation, function, and connectivity.
- The benefit of ecosystem-based management is that it results in responsible forest uses which are ecologically and economically sustainable over the long-term.
- A combination of working forests, special management areas, and reserves create a *balanced* approach.



The primary conservation measures to increase structural complexity include growing old, large trees; retaining and recruiting snags; maintaining coarse woody debris on the forest floor; and protecting riparian zones.

Creating resilience to climate-related change and disturbances

- Grow larger trees
- Prescribed fire
- Increase buffers
- Increase species diversity



Selection Timber Harvest



Community involvement is fundamental to community forestry





Poll
questions
5 + 6

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES



How to comment on the draft Forest Stewardship Plan

- The draft plan is available at www.humboldt.gov/mckayforest
- Send your comments in an e-mail or attached letter to:
mckayforest@co.humboldt.ca.us
- An optional comment form is posted on the website
- For questions on the McKay Community Forest, contact:
Hank Seemann - hseemann@co.humboldt.ca.us
Robert Vogt - rvogt@co.humboldt.ca.us

Questions for presenters?