



CALIFORNIA FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Forestland Steward

WINTER 2011



Photo: Mark Andre

Arcata Community Forest



Photo: L. Litman

Usal Redwood Forest



Photo: Peter D. Johnson

Burney Creek-Hat Creek Integrated Watershed Management Project

New Directions in Community-based Forestry

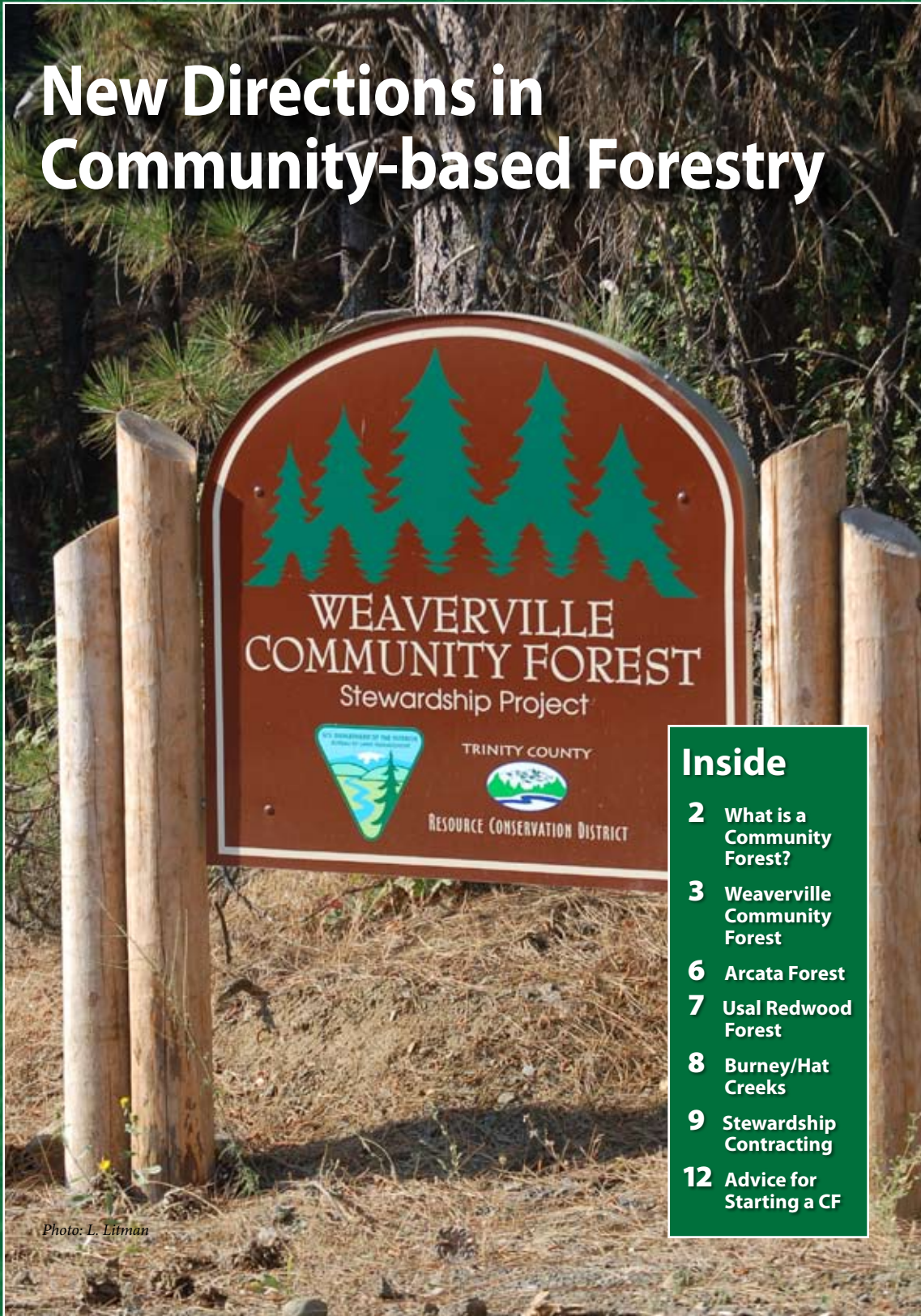


Photo: L. Litman

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Forestland Steward

Forestland Steward is a joint project of the CA Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Placer County Resource Conservation District, UC Cooperative Extension, and USDA Forest Service to provide information on the stewardship of private forestlands in California.

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What is a community forest?

Community forests are common throughout the U.S. and world, but rare in California. This is in the process of changing, however, as a number of rural communities develop new and creative models to participate in their local forests.

But what exactly is a community forest?

That's a good question and not easily answered. Scores of definitions exist. One of the best and most comprehensive states: "*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 components 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 four community forests we look at in this issue differ in major ways. The Arcata Community Forest (p. 6) is the oldest—it was dedicated in 1955 and is managed by the city government. The Weaverville Community Forest (p. 3) was established through agreements with the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage forestland around the town; no ownership is involved. The Usal Redwood Forest (p. 7) is owned by a nonprofit organization, Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFFI), which solicits input from, and is committed to benefitting, the local community. And the Burney Creek-Hat Creek Integrated Watershed Management Project (p. 8) has no ownership or management responsibilities—the community provides direction and support to existing landowners within the watersheds.

Despite their different structures, goals, and issues, these community forests have a lot in common.

Each is being managed to improve the forest resources over the long-term. All are working forests; they are actively managed to provide products and/or services with monetary value, such as recreation, timber, water, and carbon. The forest products benefit the local community in a variety of ways, providing jobs, taxes, products, and local pride. And all are collaborative efforts that welcome expertise and input from diverse

local interests and perspectives.

Although community forestry is difficult to define, the Forest Guild has identified some important characteristics:

- Community forestry begins with protecting and restoring the forest.
- Residents have access to the land and its resources, and participate in land management decisions.
- Resource managers engage the knowledge of those living closest to the land in developing relationships with the forest.
- Forestry is used as a tool to benefit and strengthen communities.
- Cultural values, historic use, resource health, and community economic development needs are considered in management decisions.
- Decisionmaking is open, transparent, and inclusive.

These characteristics speak to the underlying goals and values inherent in community forests, which work to provide a sustainable resource base for those living nearby. The focus is on economic stability for the community, as well as aesthetic, cultural, and environmental values. Since local issues and participants vary, each community forest will, by necessity, be unique.

Communities in forested areas are intimately connected with—and dependent on—the local natural resources for their economic and social well-being. Most are suffering from the current recession and poor timber market. In addition, fire safety issues affect everyone. No matter the ownership, communities have a stake in how their local forests are managed. The idea of a community forest, however it is defined or designed, is one way for the community to have a voice in this management.

There are a number of tools that can support community forests. Stewardship contracting (p. 9), which allows community groups to enter into contracts with the Forest Service and BLM to accomplish projects on public lands, has been used effectively by a number of community forest groups. There are publications and websites (p. 10) that offer guidance for starting a community forest, and document successes all over the world.

As you read the stories of these community forests in California, think about the relationships between your community and its forests. How can those connections be strengthened?

Weaverville Community Forest: successful partnerships create a community forest

*Colleen O'Sullivan,
Chair, Trinity County Resource Conservation
District Board of Directors*

In the town of Weaverville there is a 13,000-acre community forest that showcases a unique relationship between the federal government and the citizens of Trinity County in managing natural resources for the good of all.

In a county dominated by federal ownership (almost 80 percent), the success of the Weaverville Community Forest (WCF) is underscored by a high level of public participation and interaction between federal and local agencies. The result is the accomplishment of many forest health projects, strategic planning initiatives, and an expanding definition of what is a "community forest."

History

In 1999, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began the process of disposing of about 1000 acres of forestland through a land exchange. This acreage sat on the west side of Weaverville and formed one of the many scenic backdrops in the Weaver basin.

BLM wanted to trade this land to a large timber company in order to acquire land along the Trinity River. The local citizenry became concerned about the potential for much more intensive land management under private ownership, and many issues were raised at community meetings. Among the more urgent concerns were possible impacts to local drinking water supplies, change in the scenic views, and access roads to private land.

A small group of citizens became organized and petitioned the Board of Supervisors to request BLM to hold off on the land trade for a few years while other options were researched. BLM agreed, and in that period many ideas were proposed.

The community forest concept came out of this process, based on the Arcata Community Forest in Humboldt County. People started to think of the thousand acres as something that could be managed in partnership with BLM. A tract of land that had been a nuisance to BLM from a management standpoint could be a real asset if viewed through a different lens.

During this time, Trinity County Resource Conservation District (RCD) became interested in becoming a local partner and proponent of the fledging community forest concept.

In 2004 BLM welcomed a new manager, Steve Anderson, to their Redding Area office. He quickly appreciated the community support for the WCF and found a way to make it happen.

Stewardship contracting, a new federal contracting tool, had been recently enacted by Congress. It allowed any receipts generated from forest product sales to be retained in a special account and used for other work on the forest. Steve Anderson realized that through a Stewardship Agreement with Trinity County RCD, with whom BLM had a long-standing working relationship, the community vision of a local working forest could be realized.

By 2005, Trinity County RCD and BLM had signed a 10-year agreement to implement a stewardship contract to manage 1000 acres as the Weaverville Community Forest.

More community meetings were held, and the RCD acted as the liaison between interested citizens and the BLM. A five-year strategic plan was developed, a list of projects arose from that, and annual work plans were drawn up.

In 2007 a thinning project was completed on 200 acres, which provided logs to the local mill, about \$111,116 to the stewardship fund, firewood sales to the community, and the start of much-needed fuels reduction work.



Photos: L. Litman

In 2007, a thinning project completed on 200 acres provided logs to the local mill, about \$111,116 to the stewardship fund, firewood sales to the community, and the start of much-needed fuels reduction work.

(continued next page)

Lessons Learned

- General concepts and project ideas that come from citizen groups have the best chance of successful implementation and community acceptance.
- Each federal agency is different, and it is crucial to find or cultivate an advocate within the agency to promote your goals.
- Taking the idea of a community forest and making it happen takes a lot of time. Patience and persistence are essential to success.
- Having a shared understanding of forest health from a variety of viewpoints promotes collaboration and trust.

Each summer a San Francisco nonprofit, Environmental Traveling Companions, brings trainees to the WCF for service learning.

The WCF Expands

The working relationship between the RCD and BLM has been very successful, with many projects completed under the overarching goals of improved forest health, fire resiliency, and retention of high scenic values. In addition, the RCD has been able to leverage funds from other state and federal sources to multiply the number and scope of projects accomplished on the forest.

New trails have been constructed, water quality monitoring conducted, educational programs initiated, invasive plants are being addressed, and many other improvements are taking place. All of these activities increase the number and quality of points of contact between the WCF and the community. It has truly become a community forest.

With this in mind, the RCD and community members approached the US Forest Service (USFS) about expanding the concept of the WCF onto Forest Service land in the Weaver basin.

The USFS is the largest land manager in the county, and most of the federal land in the basin is under USFS auspices of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor, supported WCF expansion, having seen the success on the BLM side, and in 2008 the RCD and USFS signed a 10-year Stewardship Agreement to manage 12,000 acres as a community forest.

In total, 13,000 acres were now under a stewardship contract to be managed as the Weaverville Community Forest. This newly added acreage included oak woodlands, timber tracts, an extensive trail system (including access to the Trinity Alps Wilderness), complete watershed inclusion, and many ongoing forest health projects.

Funding opportunities expanded with the addition of Forest Service lands, as well as an increased interest in community involvement in federal land management decisions. A steering committee was formed, and in a loose and informal way has continued to provide input and feedback on project implementation, policy guidelines, and strategic planning. As a result, two more forest thinning projects are scheduled for this year, as well as access road improvements, wildlife improvement activities, and ongoing education programs.

Both the BLM (Hands on the Land) and the USFS (Children's Forest) have new initiatives, with funds, to provide more ways for communities to connect with their federal lands. The WCF will be taking advantage of these initiatives, while continuing to leverage grant monies from myriad sources to stretch the dollars on the ground. The retained receipts from timber sales, as allowed under stewardship contracting, will also be leveraged to implement the long list of projects needed for continued forest health.



Photo: Trinity County RCD



Additional Partnerships

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), which has historically partnered with RCDs since their formation in the Dust Bowl era, has been able to bring funding from the USDA Farm Bill, which now provides monies for community forestry. The NRCS assists private landowners with agricultural and forestry needs, and the local NRCS office is reaching out to landowners in the Weaver basin and in the forest 'landscape' of the WCF to help implement landscape-wide forest health projects.

The USFS Resource Advisory Committee, which allocates yearly funds under the Secure Rural Schools Act, has been a consistent source of grants for WCF projects and a solid partner of the WCF. State partnerships include Water Quality Control Board, Fire Safe Council (state and local), and Caltrans.

In a solid endorsement of both the concept and work of the WCF, a neighboring landowner has willed his property to the RCD upon his passing so that the community forestry mission can

continue. This gesture signifies the importance of place that the Weaverville Community Forest has come to represent.

Encomiums

In 2009, the WCF received a Partners in Conservation Award from the Department of Interior in recognition of the successful partnership between the RCD and the BLM. Members of the Redding BLM office and Trinity County RCD traveled to Washington DC to receive the honor.

In 2008, the California Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, a committee of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, conferred upon the WCF its Forest Stewardship of the Year award. It noted that the WCF had used stewardship contracting to achieve many forest improvement projects on the landscape. Being recognized for collective effort and effective work is always rewarding, and it re-energizes the many local volunteers who have made the WCF so successful.

In 2009, the WCF received a Partners in Conservation Award from the Department of Interior in recognition of the successful partnership between the RCD and the BLM. Members of the Redding BLM office and local RCD, including the author (center), traveled to Washington, DC to receive the honor.

1994 Forest Management Plan objectives:

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.

See the 1994 Forest Management Plan at http://www.cityofarcata.org/sites/default/files/files/document_center/Environmental%20Services/Arcata%20Forests/Arcata_Forest_Mgmt_Plan_1994.pdf

Arcata Community Forest leads the way

The Arcata Community Forest is a “grand experiment” in forest management and the social dimensions of restoration. It has been highly successful for decades.

The land had been extensively logged and grazed when the citizens of Arcata gained title for a water supply. The community forest was dedicated in 1955 as the first municipally-owned forest in California to be “managed for the benefit of all citizens of the city, with attention to watershed, recreation, timber management, and other values.” There are now 2,134 acres, including the Jacoby Creek Forest, and the city is seeking to acquire more land to buffer multiple threats from increasing urbanization.

It has been 30 years since voters approved the “Forest Management and Parkland Initiative” which provided the blueprint for management. The forest is currently managed under a Forest Management Plan completed in 1994 (*see sidebar*).

The goal of forest management is to maximize habitat diversity and speed up forest succession to late-seral (old growth) forest habitat. This is accomplished through selective silvicultural methods. Already, the 120-year-old second growth redwood forest is starting to look like old growth.

While wildlife habitat objectives drive silvicultural decisions, priorities also include watershed, education, recreation, carbon sequestration, and timber harvest revenue.



Photo: Michael McDowell

Current timber inventory on the working forest is 65 million board feet. The maximum allowable annual harvest is half of the annual growth on that portion so the forest continues to increase in volume and age.

The city forest has always paid for itself; no general fund or tax revenues have been needed. About 35 percent of the forest is in preserves, there are special management areas, and then there is the working forest, which provides revenues that support all of the forest management activities.

In 1998, the forest was certified sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This allows timber and wood products from the forest to be sold under the “SmartWood” label, assuring consumers that the wood comes from a well-managed forest. The Forest Guild recognized the Arcata Forest as a “Model Forest” in 2008.

The city's Environmental Services Department is responsible for the community forest with oversight from a volunteer Forest Management Advisory Committee, which includes members with expertise in various forest-related disciplines. Humboldt State University, located in Arcata, is very involved. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in all committee meetings.

Mark Andre, Arcata city forester, notes that despite several decades of city government and staff turnover, the community still embraces and supports the forest. The long-term experiment is working.



Photo: Michael McDowell

About 35 percent of the forest is in preserves and there are special management areas. The rest is working forest, which provides revenues that support all forest management activities.

Usal Redwood Forest

A new model for working community forests

"We think this is the future of forest ownership. These forests will not stay intact very much longer unless something changes dramatically. If we can make this work here, then we're creating a blueprint that should work anywhere."

—Art Harwood

The nonprofit Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFFI) was conceived out of the "timber wars" of the 1980s. According to Art Harwood, executive director of the organization, "People had to learn to communicate...environmentalists had to think like Wall Street, and timber people had to think like environmentalists." The nonprofit brought a diverse group together with the goal of creating a new model of a community working forest for the benefit of the local community.

In 2007, RFFI purchased the 50,000-acre Usal Redwood Forest at full market value. This land was recognized for its tremendous potential as a community asset. The property is rich in fish-bearing streams, diverse wildlife and plant species, and archeological sites. There are many economic opportunities for local jobs, including restoration work, shaded fuel breaks, and forest products. Private investments and public grants can bring in money to help heal the forest and support the local economy.

After intensive logging by industrial timber companies for over 100 years, the property requires a great deal of restoration. The historical removal of overstory trees left hardwoods dominant on much of the land.

The long-term vision for the property is a redwood-dominated forest. Converting from the current hardwood-dominated structure will require decades of careful management.

This work has already begun. Miles of roads are slated for decommissioning or upgrading. Streams are being restored. Selective harvesting, commercial thinning, and small clearcuts are among the silvicultural methods used to move the forest to a more desirable condition.

The Usal Forest faces a number of challenges, especially economic ones. As a working forest, it is expected to eventually pay its own way. But for the time being low market prices, a shaky economy, and a large debt has RFFI in a difficult position.

While the property is mostly one continuous block, there is strong development pressure to



Photo: L. Litman

break it into parcels, which would fragment the landscape. RFFI has been working to sell a working forest conservation easement that would pay down the debt and keep the land in one piece in perpetuity.

For more information, including FAQs about the forest and the Usal Management Plan, go to <http://www.rffi.org/UsalRedwoodForest.html>.

The Redwood Forest Foundation hopes the Usal Redwood Forest will become a redwood-dominated forest one day.

RFFI Forest Management Principles

The Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFFI) promotes ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. RFFI will engage our community in the challenges of forest conservation and management. RFFI's first duty is to the forest and its future. Therefore the manager will incorporate the following principles in managing the Usal Redwood Forest.

- The well-being of human society is dependent on responsible forest management that places high priority on maintenance and enhancement of the entire forest ecosystem.
- The natural forest provides a model for sustainable resource management; therefore, responsible forest management imitates nature's dynamic processes and minimizes impacts when harvesting trees and other products.
- The forest has value in its own right, independent of human intention and needs.
- Human knowledge of forest ecosystems is limited. Responsible management that sustains the forest requires continuous learning.
- The practice of forestry must be grounded in field observation and experience as well as in the biological sciences. This practical knowledge should be developed and incorporated into its forest management.

Lessons Learned

Process Recommendations

- Identify shared needs and goals
- Invite broad participation
- Clearly state goals and objectives
- Define participant roles and responsibilities
- Develop a clear decisionmaking process
- Document agreements to build trust and accountability

Economic Development

- Want living wage jobs in community
- Work with existing businesses—what do they need?
- Use stewardship contracts
- Conduct feasibility studies for new businesses

Policy Tools

- Legislation and appropriations
- Memoranda of understanding
- Government grants and incentive programs
- Innovative funding mechanisms
- Stewardship contracts
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans and HFRA

—Todd Sloat presentation, <http://biodiversity.ca.gov/Meetings/graeagle10/Sloat.pdf>

Burney Creek-Hat Creek Project

A sustainable landscape approach to benefit the local community

The Burney Creek-Hat Creek Integrated Watershed Management Project (Project) is an effort to organize the entire two-watershed area into a new type of community forest. In this model, community members provide management direction and help procure funding for projects that can improve local economic, social, and environmental conditions in the area.

The Project is driven by socioeconomic need. Like other forest-based communities, the Burney/Hat Creek area's economy is intimately tied to the local natural resources. Due to the current recession unemployment has jumped to over 22%. The community character is changing as younger families have to leave and retirees move in.

The Project was initiated by the Shasta Resources Advisory Committee (RAC), which was interested in funding a sustainable landscape approach rather than spot projects. The Fall River Resource Conservation District (RCD) stepped up to this challenge.

The Burney/Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Collaborative Group (Watershed Group) began meeting in April, 2010, with the goal of developing a plan and projects that “integrate sustainable natural resource management with socioeconomic development across the 364,000-acre, two-watershed area.”

The Watershed Group membership spans a wide range of local interests, with representation that includes the Lassen National Forest and Lassen National Park, Pit River Tribe, private ranches and farms, large industrial landowners, environmental groups, wood products industry, fire departments and Fire Safe Council, fisheries/recreation, and tourism.

As with any new undertaking the group is still developing working relationships with one another and structure for the group. They are currently working on a mission statement, and so far have no formal decisionmaking process.

But even as they meet to define themselves, the Watershed Group has come a long way their first year. They held public meetings and interviewed community members and stakeholders, which resulted in a report with recommendations for the Project (<http://sierrainstitute.us/documents/>



Photo: Peter D. Johnson

The Burney Creek Restoration, to be implemented later this year, will restore a degraded meadow and forested wetland area.

Research_Reports/Burney_Hat_Creek_Report.pdf) developed by the nonprofit Sierra Institute for Community and Policy. They have a plan of action and have identified projects for 2010 and beyond.

In addition, Fall River RCD received grant funding for three on-the-ground projects which are due to be implemented this year. These will combine stream restoration and fuels treatments with economic benefits to the community from the biomass and sawlog harvests that feed into the local infrastructure. The projects include:

- Burney Creek Restoration, which will restore a degraded meadow and forested wetland area
- Whittington Forest Restoration to thin 5,000 acres on Forest Service land
- Lower Hat Creek Streambed Restoration to restore streambanks and aquatic habitat

Those involved in this project are enthusiastic about its accomplishments and potential. There is broad support from all parts of the community, including the largest landowners. The Watershed Group has increased understanding and respect of multiple stakeholder needs and can build on the successful collaboration that is developing. And the community is taking a role in improving their natural resource base and the local economy.

For more information contact Todd Sloat, Fall River RCD, 530-336-5456, tsloat@citilink.net.

Stewardship contracting can help fund community forest projects

There are a number of funding tools available to rural communities for their community forests, including grants and economic incentive programs. One that has proven beneficial is stewardship contracting. This is a relatively new mechanism to help communities work with the US Forest Service (USFS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement restoration activities on national forest lands.

Stewardship contracting allows the USFS and BLM to enter into projects for up to 10 years (Section 323 of Public Law 108-7). The authority ends on September 30, 2013. The key goals include:

- Improve, maintain, and restore forest and rangeland health
- Restore/maintain water quality
- Improve fish/wildlife habitat
- Re-establish native plant species and increase their resilience
- Reduce hazardous fuels

What makes stewardship contracting unique?

Stewardship contracting is designed to implement projects more efficiently and in a manner more responsive to communities than traditional timber or service contracts. They can:

- **Bundle several contracts** into one to treat a landscape.
- **Trade goods for services.** The value of timber or other forest products removed can be applied as an offset against any services received from the contractor on the same project.
- **Retain receipts.** Receipts from forest products that need to be removed to meet restoration objectives can then be applied to needed service work within the stewardship project area or transferred to another approved project.
- **Use of multi-year contracts** and agreements up to 10 years in length.
- **Best Value contracting** to evaluate contractor proposals. This means that factors other than price—past performance, work quality, timely delivery, benefits to the local community, etc.—can be considered in awarding the contract.
- **Designation by Description** and **Designation by Prescription.** This gives contractors the flexibility to make decisions in the field. Rather than marking individual trees for removal,

Designation by Description describes the trees to be removed by characteristics such as species and size. Designation by Prescription specifies the end result on the ground.

How does stewardship contracting work?

When the Forest Service trades goods for services, most projects are incorporated into a single Integrated Resource Contract (IRC). An IRC includes forest product removal (goods) and restoration projects (services), which are offset by the value of the goods. One contractor is responsible for completing all work but may use subcontractors. The Forest Service solicits proposals from individuals and groups to accomplish their land management goals. The quality of a proposal, expertise, and past performance of the contractor, as well as price, are key factors in awarding a contract or entering into an agreement on a Best Value basis.

How can funds be spent?

The exchange of goods for services must be from on-the-ground projects, such as removing vegetation to promote healthy forests or reduce wildfire hazards, restoring watershed areas, and restoring wildlife and fish habitat. When the value of goods is greater than the cost of services, the Forest Service collects and retains the excess. These retained receipts may be used to implement other stewardship contracts/agreements. Stewardship contracting funds may not be spent on overhead

and salaries, construction of administrative or major developed recreation facilities, research, and land acquisition.

Contact your local Forest Service office or go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/index.shtml> to learn more.



Photo: L. Litman

How to get involved in stewardship contracting

All project proposals created from a national forest/community partnership are coordinated with a district ranger. The district ranger submits a written proposal to the forest supervisor, who coordinates with the regional forester for project approval. Contact your regional Forest Service office to learn more about stewardship contracting or go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/index.shtml>.

Stewardship contracting can help community groups implement projects on USFS or BLM land.

Resources Support for creating a community forest

The **Forest Guild** states, "Rural economic development in forest-dependent communities is difficult.... The twin challenges are to create economic opportunities that are environmentally and culturally acceptable, and to develop the business infrastructure and human resources necessary to capture these opportunities."

Their community forestry program includes business assistance, support for forest restoration, forestry training for youth, and research that leads to public policy recommendations.

www.forestguild.org/community-forestry.html

Interested in starting a community forest? Some good resources are available online, including a 2008 publication, *Acquiring and Managing A Community-Owned Forest: A Manual for Communities*, produced by the nonprofit Communities Committee (<http://www.communitiescommittee.org/>).

This manual offers step-by-step instructions to help communities create their own community forest, from assessing the potential for a community forest to organizing the process. It also presents examples from community forests throughout the country. This publication has links to numerous other publications including resources for financing a community forest. http://www.communitiescommittee.org/pdfs/Acquiring_and_Managing_a_Community-Owned_Forest.pdf.

The National Community Forestry Service Center (NCFSC) website states: "44 million acres of forestland will be sold in the United States in the next 20 years. Imagine the jobs, environmental protection, and community-building that could happen if it went into local hands." They want to

accelerate the national movement toward local ownership and management of forestland in the U.S. They offer:

- technical assistance in negotiating and financing forestland acquisitions, planning for stewardship and management, building community capacity, and facilitating the establishment of governance and management structures.
- support for policy initiatives to support existing community-owned forests or develop new ones.
- identify and connect grassroots, intermediary, and regional organizations across the U.S. that support sustainable community-owned forestry.
- place-based strategies for acquiring/managing working forests as economic engines.
- partner with community-based groups, local governments and tribal organizations.
- GIS mapping to identify opportunities for establishing working community forests.
- inventory resources, relationships, skills and structures needed for communities to sustainably own, conserve and manage working forests and support forest-related jobs and businesses.

For information, <http://www.conservationfund.org/nationalcommunityforestryservicecenter>

Technical Assistance

Many agencies are available to provide technical assistance, referrals, information, education, land management plan assistance, and advice.

California Stewardship Helpline

1-800-738-TREE; ncsaf@mcn.org

California Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection

Forest Landowner Assistance Programs
Jeffrey Calvert
916-653-8286; jeff.calvert@fire.ca.gov

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Calendar

January 12-13

Forest Vegetation Management Conference “Forests and Fire”

Location: Redding, CA
Cost: \$140 until Jan 2; \$175 after that
Website: <http://www.fvmc.org>

January 12

Goldspotted Oak Borer Workshop

Location: Thousand Oaks, CA
Cost: \$35
Contact: Jan Gonzales, jgonzales@ucdavis.edu
 (858) 694-8955
Note: limited space; <http://ucanr.org/sites/gsobinfo/files/66180.pdf>

January 13

Goldspotted Oak Borer Workshop

Location: La Cañada Flintridge, CA
 (see above)

January 14-15

NorCal SAF Winter Meeting “Forestry 101: Growing California’s Forestry Education”

Location: Redding, CA
Contact: Jane LaBoa, 800-738-TREE, ncsaf@mcn.org
Website: http://www.norcal saf.org/temparticles/Winter_2011_meeting_flyer.pdf

January 14

Project Learning Tree Workshop (NorCal SAF Winter Meeting above)

Location: Turtle Bay Exploration Park
Registration: Contact Kay Antunez, PLT
 Coordinator, at kay.antunez@fire.ca.gov or 916-653-7958
Note: Get a taste of PLT’s newest curriculum,
 “Global Connections—Forests of the World.”

February 9

CA Fire Safe Council Board Meeting

Location: USFS Fire Training and Conference
 Center, 3237 Peacekeeper Way, McClellan, CA
Note: <http://www.firesafecouncil.org>

March 1-2

Board of Forestry Meeting

Location: Resources Building, Sacramento
Contact: 916-653-8007
Website: <http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov>

March 26–April 1

Forest Conservation Days

Location: Sanborn Skyline Park, 16055 Sanborn
 Road, Saratoga
Website: <http://norcal saf.org/FCD.html>
Note: Tours/education about natural resource
 management, portable sawmill demos, walks.

Wildfire Prevention Grants

The California Fire Safe Council will start accepting applications on January 5, 2011 for wildfire prevention grant funds through the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Parks Service. Grants may be used for hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal land, to develop community risk assessments and Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), and to provide education and outreach. The amount of funding available, if any, is undetermined at this time. Check the Grants Clearinghouse for updates.

Grant Timeline for 2012 cycle:

Call for Applications Jan 5, 2011
 Application deadline April 1, 2011

For more information about grants and the Grants Clearinghouse, articles on grant writing, grant writing workshops, and other support, go to the Clearinghouse website at <http://www.grants.firesafecouncil.org/>.

Get the e-version with live links

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How can Forestland Steward newsletter serve you?

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Organization _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____ Phone _____

email _____

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Fill out this box and send it to CAL FIRE, Forestry Assistance, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460. Fax: (916) 653-8957; email: jeff.calvert@fire.ca.gov
 For address changes, please send this box or contact Jeff Calvert via e-mail, standard mail, or fax...be sure to reference *Forestland Steward* newsletter.

Advice for starting your own community forest:

- **Start small.** Do not wait as increasing land values in the urban interface may make large acquisitions unfeasible. Consider starting with a particularly vulnerable tract of land from which momentum can build for later additions.
- **Take the time to get community buy-in.** Engage the community to get a clear vision of what they would like to accomplish.
- **Set up an interdisciplinary team** of experts to provide information and advice.
- **Sustain the community buy-in** by involving the community in ongoing management activities, e.g., volunteer invasive plant removal days, trail building, field tours for proposed timber sales, etc.
- **Set up a financial system.** Harvest revenues should go first and foremost to forest management activities. Maintain a reserve fund so you don't have to harvest during down markets. The forest fund can leverage grants, purchase easements or new acquisitions.
- Secure funding for long-term management **monitoring and adaptive management.**
- **Provide a forum**, such as a newsletter, to communicate with the community.
- Set up a system whereby **future management goals are clear** and not radically altered by political changes in the town leadership. Consider third-party certification (FSC in Arcata's case) to provide elected officials with comfortable parameters to operate within. This also helps with public relations.
- **Conduct periodic community "visioning" sessions** to make sure that the community continues to support the goals and objectives. This is in addition to the usual public hearings for adopting management plans, etc.
- Acquiring and managing a community forest requires **technical expertise, collaborative partnerships, willing landowners, and a bit of luck** with timing. Landowners are more likely to participate after the community establishes a track record and a level of commitment.



—thanks to Mark Andre, City Forester,
Arcata Community Forest, for these suggestions

Photo: Michael McDowall