



**McKay Community Forest
Forest Stewardship Plan
Outreach and Community Engagement Summary**

**Prepared by:
Redwood Community Action Agency
for the County of Humboldt**

June 13, 2022

McKay Community Forest Stewardship Plan

Outreach Summary

- *Project Website and Email Communications*

The County of Humboldt maintains a project website at <https://humboldt.gov/mckayforest>. All project outreach-related items were uploaded to the project website. The website also has a “stay informed” sign-up option so that interested individuals can receive project-related email updates. This list was used to notify community residents about the availability of the Draft Forest Stewardship Plan and the opportunities to engage in person and/ or submit comments.

- *Flyer*

A project flyer was developed to share information about the public outreach events, including the tabling days and Zoom meeting. The flyer was distributed online, placed on the project website, emailed to project stakeholders, and posted to local bulletin boards in the Humboldt Bay and greater Eureka area. See Attachment A for the flyer.

- *Summary Handout*

County of Humboldt staff updated a previous draft developed by RCAA to share quick facts about the McKay Forest Stewardship Plan. This one page (front and back) handout provides an expedited overview of the Forest Stewardship Plan’s goals, a map of the McKay Community Forest, and other introductory information. This handout was made available via the project website and at in-person tabling events. See Attachment B for the handout.

- *Zoom Community Meeting*

Meeting held: May 12, 2022, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

The County of Humboldt, BBW & Associates and RCAA staff hosted an open community meeting via Zoom to present the Draft Forest Stewardship Plan as well as address questions and concerns from the general public. The Zoom meeting was recorded for posterity and public viewing, and is provided on the County’s project website. Transcribed notes of questions and comments are provided in Attachment C.

- *Comment Forms / Emails*

The general public was provided opportunities to comment on the Draft Forest Stewardship Plan via comment forms and email submissions. The comment forms were provided to interested people at each tabling event as well as on the County website as a PDF. Comments could be handed in, mailed in or sent via an email directly to County staff. The comment form is provided as an attachment, as well as all submitted forms. Comments were also directly submitted to County staff. Comments received via forms or emails are summarized in Attachment D.

- *One-on-one/ Small Group Meetings*

The County of Humboldt and RCAA staff met with various stakeholders and interested parties to conduct one-on-one or small group conversations regarding the Draft Forest Stewardship Plan, Trail Plan, and other management aspects of the McKay Community Forest. Notes from a meeting with the property owners of a private inholding surrounded by the McKay Community Forest are summarized in Attachment E.

- *Tabling Events*

The County of Humboldt and RCAA staff held three separate tabling events to engage the general public about the Draft Forest Stewardship Plan. Two of the events were advertised via a flyer, and one was added as an impromptu event due to the convenient timing of the monthly “Arts Alive” art walk in downtown Eureka. The dates for tabling events were May 7 in the morning (held in the 3000 block of Harris Street adjacent to the Community Forest sign), May 7 in the evening (at Arts Alive in downtown Eureka), and May 14 in the afternoon (at the Humboldt Cider Company’s outdoor gathering space). At each event, the Draft Forest Stewardship Plan and Trail Plan were available for review, as well as information about the Zoom community meeting and other tabling events. Comment forms were available to complete, and staff were available for Q&A and informational discussions about the McKay Community Forest. Approximately 80 people total attended the 3 separate events. While some comment forms were submitted, most people were generally interested in hearing more about 1) locations of trail and recreational amenities, 2) boundaries and access points to the community forest, and 3) timeline for trail construction. Photos of two of the tabling events are available in Attachment F.

- *EcoNews Report*

Hank Seemann, Humboldt County Deputy Director of Public Works, and Stevie Luther, Humboldt Trails Council, were interviewed for the audio-based EcoNews Report on April 30, 2022. The conversation summarized the Draft Forest Stewardship Plan, addressed general timelines for trail and recreation amenity development, and described expected next steps and uses of the McKay Community Forest. An audio recording of the conversation is available here: <https://www.yournec.org/the-real-mckay-release-of-management-plan-brings-eurekas-future-community-forest-one-step-closer/>

Attachments

Attachment A: Flyer



The County of Humboldt invites your input on the draft McKay Community Forest Stewardship Plan

We will be hosting a series of public events to provide a summary of the plan, address questions, and hear suggestions and concerns about the future management of this local resource. Please Join Us!

➡ Tabling Events

- May 7th, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
3000 block of Harris Street, near the Community Forest
- May 14th, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Humboldt Cider Company at Redwood Acres, 3750 Harris Street

➡ Public Meeting via Zoom

May 12th, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84867558503>

➡ Comments form
Available on project web page

Please visit the project web page for:

- DRAFT Forest Stewardship Plan
- Trail Plan
- Comments form
- Background documents
- Contact information



humboldt.gov/mckayforest




Attachment B: Forest Stewardship Plan Summary Handout

McKay Community Forest
Draft Forest Stewardship Plan
April 22, 2022
www.humboldt.gov/mckayforest




Overview

Location

The McKay Community Forest is located southeast of Eureka within the watershed of Ryan Creek along the urban interface with Myrtlewood, Cullen, and Ridgewood Heights.

Formation

The Community Forest was created in 2014 when the County of Humboldt acquired 997 acres of forestland from Green Diamond Resource Company, and then expanded in 2020 through the acquisition of an additional 197 acres, resulting in a total of 1,194 acres.

Planning Documents

Forest Stewardship Plan

The Forest Stewardship Plan is a guidance document for managing the Community Forest. This plan addresses how silviculture, fire risk reduction, habitat restoration, carbon sequestration, monitoring, and adaptive management will be implemented through the next 10 to 15 years.

Comments on the draft Forest Stewardship Plan are invited through May 31, 2022.

Trail Plan

The Trail Plan provides a blueprint for the development of trails, access points, and amenities to support recreational and educational activities. The Trail Plan was completed in December 2020.

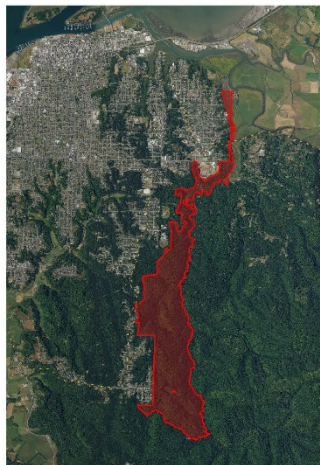
The draft Forest Stewardship Plan and Trail Plan are available at: www.humboldt.gov/mckayforest.

Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan

The Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NITMP) is a document developed to demonstrate compliance with the California Forest Practice Rules. The NITMP was submitted to CAL FIRE in April 2022.

Purpose

The Community Forest was established for multiple purposes including public access and recreation, timber harvest, and watershed and resource conservation. The Community Forest is envisioned as a place that enhances the quality of life for Humboldt County residents and visitors by providing opportunities to experience a diverse, dynamic, and productive forest.



Trail Network

The Trail Plan proposes a trail network with 31 miles of multi-use roads, multi-use trails, hiking trails, and mountain bike trails.

McKay Community Forest
Draft Forest Stewardship Plan
April 22, 2022
www.humboldt.gov/mckayforest




Community Forest Management Goals

| | |
|---|--|
| Goal 1: Forest Stewardship | Practice environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, economically viable forest management |
| Goal 2: Environmental Values | Conserve and enhance the environmental values of the forest to maintain its biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes |
| Goal 3: Working Forest | Maintain a working forest that supports timber-related jobs and economic productivity on a sustainable basis |
| Goal 4: Public Access and Recreation | Provide high-quality recreational opportunities to support active living and enhance quality of life |
| Goal 5: Community Involvement | Encourage robust public involvement to ensure that the community forest meets the community's desires and interests and is valued as a community asset |
| Goal 6: Public Safety | Manage the community forest to promote a safe and secure environment for families and visitors of all ages |
| Goal 7: Education | Contribute to an awareness of modern forest management practices and create opportunities for outdoor educational activities |

How to submit comments on the draft Forest Stewardship Plan:

Comment period ends
May 31, 2022

- Fill out a comment form:
 - Comment forms can be downloaded at www.humboldt.gov/mckayforest
 - Comment forms can be e-mailed to mckayforest@co.humboldt.ca.us
- Send an e-mail to mckayforest@co.humboldt.ca.us
- Send a letter to Humboldt County Department of Public Works, 1106 Second Street, Eureka, CA, 95501
- Join the on-line (Zoom) public meeting to be held on May 12, 2022, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.
 - Meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84867558503>
- Visit one of the two tabling events:
 - Saturday, May 7, 2022, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the 3000 block of Harris Street near the logging road leading into the McKay Community Forest
 - Saturday, May 14, 2022, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Humboldt Cider Company at Redwood Acres

Contacts

Hank Seemann, Public Works Deputy-Director: hseemann@co.humboldt.ca.us
Robert Vogt, Senior Environmental Analyst: rvogt@co.humboldt.ca.us

Attachment C: Zoom Public Meeting Notes

May 12, 2022, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

In Attendance:

Project Staff

- Hank Seemann, County of Humboldt
- Bob Vogt, County of Humboldt
- Mark Andre, BBW & Associates
- Jared Gerstein, BBW & Associates
- Natalie Arroyo, Redwood Community Action Agency
- Chris Lohofener, Redwood Community Action Agency

Participants, by user name

- Ben
- Bruce Cann
- Bartly Carlson
- Carol Mayes
- Cliff H
- David
- Gail Popham
- Kristen Peckham
- Paddle
- Red Cloud
- Seegers
- Sonia Waraich
- Stan Wong
- TJ
- Vivian Gerstein

- 1) Introductions, agenda, ground rules, icebreaker poll questions – Natalie Arroyo (RCAA)
- 2) Staff presentations (PowerPoint slides)
 - Hank Seemann (County) – basic overview and trail plan, including public outreach process
 - Jared Gerstein (BBW & Associates) – forestry overview and basic concepts in plan
 - Mark Andre (BBW & Associates) – concluding remarks and perspective from experience with Arcata Community Forest, what to expect in coming years/decades
- 3) Questions/comments for presenters
(Summarized for length)

Q - Bruce Cann: Are there already some logging sites prioritized that would be entered in the near future or is that yet to be determined?

A – Jared Gerstein: The answer is yes and right now the most likely first harvest will be east of Winship school, basically from Winship school down to Ryan Creek and north to the big power transmission corridor, about 100 acres.

Q – Bruce Cann: Is there anything (logging) planned for the Northridge area in the next 10 years?

A – Jared Gerstein: Not at this time.

Q – Gail Popham: Will there be parking available closer to Redwood Fields and do we expect that Redwood fields will provide parking for people to access the community forest?

A – Hank Seemann: That's happening now, informally, and then as the McKay Ranch Subdivision advances, there will be more formalized access to the community forest in that area... In the short term, Rex Bohn, who manages Redwood Fields, has indicated that he would like the parking area to serve as an access point.

Q – Bruce Cann: Is the easement near the McKay Ranch Subdivision formalized and if not, what's the priority on developing that trail easement?

A – Hank Seemann: Bruce is referring to the portion of the community forest just east of Redwood Fields, where the community forest is narrow and has unique features - where there's a private inholding property, a single family residence – so in order to avoid impacting that property, the County has mapped a trail that would traverse the eastern boundary of that future subdivision... the landowner has committed to providing the County an easement for that trail and it will be recorded when the first phase of the subdivision is finalized... would expect that to happen within the next year, but not going to be our first priority for building out trails... the first priority will be Northridge and then going North East and South from Northridge... also want to talk with Redwood Acres about their interest in allowing access points, and if that's possible, prioritize trails around Redwood Acres as well.

Q – TJ: Will County staff be assigned to help with garbage removal and keep an eye on the trail?

A – Hank Seemann: Yes, Public works has a parks division that manages several county parks so the McKay Forest will be part of their domain. County staff will do what we can and then also rely on collaboration with the Volunteer Trail Stewards and community members to monitor areas, help with trash pickup and encourage appropriate uses.

Q – Bruce Cann: Regarding the trails at Northridge... once the trails are put in, use is going to increase rapidly... will the bridge at the bottom, over the creek, be a priority? I would hope so given that once people get down in there, they are going to want to cross that creek to reach some other areas and I can see people trying to jump across, causing erosion as well as creating safety issues...

A - Hank Seemann: That's a really important consideration, and as we start building trail, we'll need to think ahead to where it will be logical for people to want to go... trying to prioritize the bridge project is a good idea, and with signage, we can try to encourage people to stay within the formal trails until the future trails are built... dispersed, haphazard use can really have an impact on vegetation and slope stability, so we want to keep concentrated use on the formal trails that are built appropriately, with current standards.

Q – From the chat: How much of the logging profit will go to the community forest?

A – Hank Seemann: When the Board of Supervisors accepted the property for the community forest, it was based on the premise that the forest would be economically self-sustaining over the long term... at a time when county finances were struggling and the general fund had a lot of demands, the board saw this as an investment in the long term, and we've been doing our work over the last several years through an internal loan... so, initially, the revenue from our future timber harvests will go back to pay off that loan... The next priority is to invest in building the trail infrastructure... there's an important bridge over Henderson Gulch, and in fact a total of 10 bridges in the trail network, ranging from 15 feet long to 90 feet long... those are expensive items that will require contractors and securing materials so that's a big investment... There will also be staffing and on-the-ground issues to deal with, as well as managing some of the logging roads – some of the historic logging roads were built well but a lot of them are in inappropriate locations that need to be either decommissioned or treated for sediment sources... The vision is, ultimately, that there will be surplus revenues that could be considered for other community benefits, whether it's community parks or other things... it's hard to predict exactly but hopefully in 15 or 20 years we could get to that point, but it depends on a variety of factors...

Q – Bruce Cann: To avoid getting lost in the forest, it would be nice to have a few maps with the proposed trail systems and some other key features like the drainages... Geo-referenced and in PDF form so that we can put them on our smartphones... there's an app called Avenza that works well...

A – Hank Seemann: I think that's a good suggestion Bruce, there is definitely a need for that and I like your idea of having it be electronic... later this summer, once we complete the environmental report and can start the formal trail building and have a grand opening at Northridge, we will definitely prioritize starting to make maps available.

Other - Natalie Arroyo: we have some comments in the chat, “thank you to all involved, very exciting” and then another person, David, said they'd like to be involved with the McKay stewardship trail program.

Attachment D:

Public Comment Form Submissions and Comments Received by Email

From: [Jim Clark](#)
To: [McKay Forest](#)
Subject: Draft McKay Community Forest Stewardship Plan & riparian resources
Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 6:34:08 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

I request that the trail and road system plan include the watercourse and wetland layers and added to the draft plan. If such a map is to complex I would suggest that trails and roads within 100' of watercourses and wetlands be identified on a map.

Watercourses and wetlands are the most productive wildlife areas in the planning area. They are also the most sensitive and very attractive to visitors. It is therefor important trails that can be accessed most of the year by the public be located to avoid wildlife disturbance while still providing visual access to the public.

I tried to correlate trail locations to watercourses but found it difficult to do accurately from the provided maps. I believe that a map clearly showing potential areas of conflict with an indexed summary of the areas and their concerns would be helpful for public review. I also believe that the interested public should be aware of the process involved in resolving these types of potential conflicts.

Sincerely,

Jim Clark
Eureka



Forest Stewardship Plan Comment Form

Date: May 9, 2022

Where do you live? Lentell Road Name (Optional): L. Lampi

Email (optional): _____

Please add me to the McKay Community Forest e-newsletter list

1. The management goals are listed in the table below. Do you have any suggestions or concerns?

I like the goal of education about forest management practices. The tract provides an opportunity for historical perspective to inform visitors of how the forest and the current environment came to be. The past logging of the tract should be a part of this educational goal. The Timber Heritage Association could provide valuable information. The tract had its own railroad.

Community Forest Management Goals

| Management Goal | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Forest Stewardship | Practice environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, economically viable forest management |
| Environmental Values | Conserve and enhance the environmental values of the forest to maintain its biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes |
| Working Forest | Maintain a working forest that supports timber-related jobs and economic productivity on a sustainable basis |
| Public Access and Recreation | Provide high-quality recreational opportunities to support active living and enhance quality of life |
| Community Involvement | Encourage robust public involvement to ensure that the community forest meets the community's desires and interests and is valued as a community asset |
| Public Safety | Manage the community forest to promote a safe and secure environment for families and visitors of all ages |
| Education | Contribute to an awareness of modern forest management practices and create opportunities for outdoor educational activities |

2. What is most important to you about the McKay Community Forest?

That it be kept free of free lance camping. Strict enforcement must be a priority.

3. Are there parts of the Forest Stewardship Plan that could be improved?

What is the plan to keep visitors from wandering onto Green Diamond property on the East side of Ryan Creek and from there onto private property? We have had a few bicyclist, motorcycles and occasional foot traffic come onto private land.

4. How can the McKay Community Forest provide the most valuable benefits to the public?

Please set aside areas that are foot traffic only. Especially free from bicyclist. Bicycles in the forest are like fingernails on a chalkboard.

Comment Forms can be e-mailed to mckayforest@co.humboldt.ca.us

May 13, 2022

I have walked on the McKay track for a few years now. I first walked down the road until the trail through the redwoods was finished. I park on Harris street and enter at the location that is next door to Redwood Acres Fairgrounds. As I enter I begin to hike the trail just to the left of the entrance. This is a wonderful trail for hiking. However, it is a very narrow trail. Most of it is only wide enough for one person at a time to be on the trail. If I am hiking with friends, we have to walk much of it single file. A few months ago a bicyclist was coming down the trail toward me at a very fast speed. He was coming down a hill, and because there was a blind curve, he did not see me. He did not have time to brake. My dog and I had to jump out of the way into the bushes, some of which were poison oak, so as not to be run over. I am opposed to allowing mountain biking on this particular section of the McKay track. It is simply too narrow with many hills that encourage fast biking. Since cyclists are riding bicycles, can't they ride down the road a bit to do their mountain biking on trails that are farther away that hikers aren't apt to frequent? I do not want to share the trail with them near the entrance as it is too dangerous.

Susan Vaughn

Eureka Resident

Relates to
map 4-3

From: [C.T](#)
To: [McKay Forest](#)
Subject: Plan comment
Date: Friday, May 13, 2022 6:40:15 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Whatever the county and partners decide to do, keep trail development standards high (high).

Always select alignments with excellent long-term sustainability, not as to short-term gain. Surface harden all trails during construction (not later), and drain all trails appropriately (beware creating too-long fall-line alignments, those built or likely to manifest). Secondly, relying on volunteer builders and maintenance-providers can be good, however caution is advised; too many folk are now aligning and building too quickly, and too steep, with little consideration as to potential degradation over the long term.

Maintenance is always required, a given, but when aligning and building you typically only get, as to capital development funds, one shot at getting it right enough. So, think “impact” and not just at 2025 and 2035 levels but 2100 and beyond. The result of work being done faster, cheaper, can result in the next county staffer and thereafter being stuck with legacy problems, and potentially too little funds, subordinate staff, and/or limited volunteer-resources to effectively manage, the resource, and using public, slipping and sliding away.

It’s a great resource, the McKay. Thanks much, Humboldt County, and best wishes!

Chris Turner

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Carol Mayes](#)
To: [McKay Forest](#)
Subject: Questions about McKay forest trails
Date: Friday, May 13, 2022 6:23:12 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi I attended the zoom presentation on Thursday May 12 and I have the following questions:

1. Does the plan address how homeless populations will be managed so that the trails are safe for public use?
2. Are any guided walks for the public planned?

This is a great project for our community. Thank you for all your efforts.

Sincerely

Carol Mayes



Forest Stewardship Plan Comment Form

Date: 5/14/22

Where do you live? Eureka Name (Optional): Katie Vaughn-Kelso
 Email (optional): katie.rose.vk@gmail.com
 Please add me to the McKay Community Forest e-newsletter list

1. The management goals are listed in the table below. Do you have any suggestions or concerns?

I care about waterway health & an experience of being immersed in nature. The clear cut hillsides are sad and I'd like a healthier harvest plan.

Community Forest Management Goals

| Management Goal | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Forest Stewardship | Practice environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, economically viable forest management |
| Environmental Values | Conserve and enhance the environmental values of the forest to maintain its biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes |
| Working Forest | Maintain a working forest that supports timber-related jobs and economic productivity on a sustainable basis |
| Public Access and Recreation | Provide high-quality recreational opportunities to support active living and enhance quality of life |
| Community Involvement | Encourage robust public involvement to ensure that the community forest meets the community's desires and interests and is valued as a community asset |
| Public Safety | Manage the community forest to promote a safe and secure environment for families and visitors of all ages |
| Education | Contribute to an awareness of modern forest management practices and create opportunities for outdoor educational activities |

2. What is most important to you about the McKay Community Forest?

Hiking w/ my dog & mom (she's 70) on a hill in the forest, without bikes!

3. Are there parts of the Forest Stewardship Plan that could be improved?

Designated hiking trails close to parking - 1 & 2 hour long loops. narrow trails, hills, no bikes.

4. How can the McKay Community Forest provide the most valuable benefits to the public?

I would like more trails along the waterways. Also No 5G or other cell towers / antenna within 1500 feet of the trails!

Comment Forms can be e-mailed to mckayforest@co.humboldt.ca.us



Forest Stewardship Plan Comment Form

Date: 5-14-2022

Where do you live? 5344 Northridge RD Name (Optional): Dean Howatt

Email (optional): already signed up

Please add me to the McKay Community Forest e-newsletter list

1. The management goals are listed in the table below. Do you have any suggestions or concerns?

Community Forest Management Goals

| Management Goal | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Forest Stewardship | Practice environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, economically viable forest management |
| Environmental Values | Conserve and enhance the environmental values of the forest to maintain its biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes |
| Working Forest | Maintain a working forest that supports timber-related jobs and economic productivity on a sustainable basis |
| Public Access and Recreation | Provide high-quality recreational opportunities to support active living and enhance quality of life |
| Community Involvement | Encourage robust public involvement to ensure that the community forest meets the community's desires and interests and is valued as a community asset |
| Public Safety | Manage the community forest to promote a safe and secure environment for families and visitors of all ages |
| Education | Contribute to an awareness of modern forest management practices and create opportunities for outdoor educational activities |

2. What is most important to you about the McKay Community Forest?

Providing a natural forest environment that is easily accessed from the city.

3. Are there parts of the Forest Stewardship Plan that could be improved?

I am most worried about security issues like camping, illegal trail building & motorcycles.

4. How can the McKay Community Forest provide the most valuable benefits to the public?

Provide a quiet walk or bike ride in the forest.

Comment Forms can be e-mailed to mckayforest@co.humboldt.ca.us



Forest Stewardship Plan Comment Form

Date: 5-14-22

Where do you live? Manila, CA Name (Optional): Warren Moak

Email (optional): _____

Please add me to the McKay Community Forest e-newsletter list

1. The management goals are listed in the table below. Do you have any suggestions or concerns?

Community Forest Management Goals

| Management Goal | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Forest Stewardship | Practice environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, economically viable forest management |
| Environmental Values | Conserve and enhance the environmental values of the forest to maintain its biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes |
| Working Forest | Maintain a working forest that supports timber-related jobs and economic productivity on a sustainable basis |
| Public Access and Recreation | Provide high-quality recreational opportunities to support active living and enhance quality of life |
| Community Involvement | Encourage robust public involvement to ensure that the community forest meets the community's desires and interests and is valued as a community asset |
| Public Safety | Manage the community forest to promote a safe and secure environment for families and visitors of all ages |
| Education | Contribute to an awareness of modern forest management practices and create opportunities for outdoor educational activities |

2. What is most important to you about the McKay Community Forest?

I would love to see a disc golf course incorporated into the plan at some point. The demand is there.

3. Are there parts of the Forest Stewardship Plan that could be improved?

4. How can the McKay Community Forest provide the most valuable benefits to the public?

Allowing multiple uses economically and recreationally. Figuring out how to ~~create~~ ^{create} many uses and not have too much overlap would be valuable.

Comment Forms can be e-mailed to mckayforest@co.humboldt.ca.us



Forest Stewardship Plan Comment Form

Date: 5/16/2022

Where do you live? 5344 Northridge Rd. Name Dean & Nancy Howatt

Email (optional): We are on the email list.

Please add me to the McKay Community Forest e-newsletter list

1. The management goals are listed in the table below. Do you have any suggestions or concerns?

We feel public safety will be the most difficult goal to be achieved. Without some type of supervision there will be illegal camping, motor vehicle use, tree cutting, trail building and marijuana growing. As neighbors of the McKay Tract since 1985 we have seen all of these problems many times.

Community Forest Management Goals

| Management Goal | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Forest Stewardship | Practice environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, economically viable forest management |
| Environmental Values | Conserve and enhance the environmental values of the forest to maintain its biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes |
| Working Forest | Maintain a working forest that supports timber-related jobs and economic productivity on a sustainable basis |
| Public Access and Recreation | Provide high-quality recreational opportunities to support active living and enhance quality of life |
| Community Involvement | Encourage robust public involvement to ensure that the community forest meets the community's desires and interests and is valued as a community asset |
| Public Safety | Manage the community forest to promote a safe and secure environment for families and visitors of all ages |
| Education | Contribute to an awareness of modern forest management practices and create opportunities for outdoor educational activities |

2. What is most important to you about the McKay Community Forest?

Preserving good habitat for wildlife, providing easy walking access for older folks and small children or just a place for people to take a quick walk in a quiet place.

3. Are there parts of the Forest Stewardship Plan that could be improved?

We are not opposed to logging as this is a traditional part of our economy and it creates a more diverse wildlife habitat than a mature forest.

4. How can the McKay Community Forest provide the most valuable benefits to the public?

The quiet refuge of a forest that can be enjoyed right next to the city is a tremendous asset.

REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY

A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1054, EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95502



May 20, 2022

mckayforest@co.humboldt.ca.us

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

RE: Draft comments on Draft Forest Stewardship plan

Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) has reviewed the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) including the Trails Plan, for the McKay Community Forest. We agree with the Vision and plans for long term management that emphasize science and community input. However, to assure the best mitigation for potential trail and road impacts, we believe that a better-defined process should be included in the Trails Plan.

We would like to see the mitigated negative declaration move forward smoothly to enable site work to begin as soon as possible. That is why we are requesting a defined process rather than a complete, detailed plan.

The FSP Special Management Areas 3.8.1 through 3.8.4 are of particular interest to RRAS as they represent high potential for bird and wildlife viewing while at the same time must be protected from overuse by the public. Steps to protect these areas in the Forestry section are appropriate but we believe that their protection, and possible enhancement, needs to be addressed in the context of trails and public use.

RRAS has a membership of over 500 members, mostly in Humboldt County. Among us are many who are retired or active natural resource professionals, and many experienced birders. We request to be included for active participation in the McKay Community Forest Planning and development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gail Kenny", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Gail Kenny
President

From: [Bruce Cann](#)
To: [McKay Forest](#)
Subject: Comments on Draft McKay Community Forest Stewardship Plan
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 1:09:53 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft stewardship plan for the McKay Community Forest. Overall, the draft plan is excellent. I just have a few suggestions for consideration in writing the final plan.

1. Page 57: Please add some language that constructed logging roads and landings shall be located in areas that minimize visual impacts from designated public trails, consistent with the other protection measures listed on that page.
2. Page 66: For Conservation Measure 10, please replace the word “may” with “will” and add “chipping” specifically as a method for getting rid of slash and reduce fuel loads. Lop and scatter should not be considered as it does not reduce fuel loading in the short term. Slash piles and landings need to be located in areas that are not seen from public use trails to the maximum extent possible.
3. Page 73: Please re-write to remove the wording about spreading more fuel. This forest already contains very heavy fuel loading. Emphasize the priority will be chipping, burning, or removal to reduce fuel loading in the short term.
4. Page 73: Please add no logging on Sunday as well.
5. Page 89: It might be appropriate to somehow develop an enforceable set of “interim management guidelines” until an ordinance is formally adopted.

That it for now...again, great work!!!

Bruce R. Cann



Forest Stewardship Plan Comment Form

Date: May 30, 2022

Where do you live? Eureka Name (Optional): Susan Penn

Email (optional): _____

Please add me to the McKay Community Forest e-newsletter list Yes!

1. The management goals are listed in the table below. Do you have any suggestions or concerns?

Community Forest Management Goals

| Management Goal | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Forest Stewardship | Practice environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, economically viable forest management |
| Environmental Values | Conserve and enhance the environmental values of the forest to maintain its biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes |
| Working Forest | Maintain a working forest that supports timber-related jobs and economic productivity on a sustainable basis |
| Public Access and Recreation | Provide high-quality recreational opportunities to support active living and enhance quality of life |
| Community Involvement | Encourage robust public involvement to ensure that the community forest meets the community's desires and interests and is valued as a community asset |
| Public Safety | Manage the community forest to promote a safe and secure environment for families and visitors of all ages |
| Education | Contribute to an awareness of modern forest management practices and create opportunities for outdoor educational activities |

2. What is most important to you about the McKay Community Forest?

The most important thing for me personally is having legal, safe access to the area and use of its trails.

3. Are there parts of the Forest Stewardship Plan that could be improved?

Two things are foremost for me: access points and hiking trails.

I realize that access is dependent on permission, etc., and don't truly know how all that works. What I'm seeing is that there is no proposed public access in the southern portion at all. You have roads and trails in that area, but no way for a walker to access them readily.

As a pedestrian, a hiker, I would like to see more trails dedicated to hiking. Looking at the proposed trails, I see lots of trails designed for mountain biking, and just two small hiking sections. One of these is in the far south area, with no access for miles to the north. This would require hiking along multi-use roads and trails for a long way just to get to this small section. Walking along roads has its advantages, but there is something special about a trail. I don't mind sharing trails with bikers, and all the bikers I've

encountered out there have been courteous. But bikes do tend to thrash the trails, especially during wet weather.

So much to read! I appreciate all the work that has gone into this.

4. How can the McKay Community Forest provide the most valuable benefits to the public?

I think a few interpretive signs would be wonderful. There is a lot of history in the property, and also a lot of natural features that you could share.

Your plan does mention signage, etc., and it would be helpful to know when you're leaving/entering private/public property.

I like a lot of the restoration plans, even though I don't know all the locations or details.

Logging sustainably, wisely, and supporting the forest for community use in that way sounds like the way to go!



Humboldt Trails Council
Post Office Box 7164
Eureka, CA 95502

May 31, 2022

Hank Seemann, Deputy Director
Humboldt County Public Works
1106 2nd Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Comments on the McKay Community Forest draft Forest Stewardship Plan

The Humboldt Trails Council has reviewed the McKay Community Forest draft Forest Stewardship Plan, and we want to commend you on its thoroughness and vision. We wish to reaffirm our organization's support for the development of the McKay Community Forest, and our commitment to working with you on trail development and maintenance.

We appreciate the community involvement component and the commitment to public access and safety. Stewardship is a guiding principle and priority for our organization.

We look forward to following through with these commitments and the development of the McKay Community Forest as a vital community resource. Thank you for all you do for the trail community in Humboldt County.

Karen Underwood
Advocacy Chair, Humboldt Trails Council

Seemann, Hank

From: Jessica Heiden
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2022 8:49 AM
To: Seemann, Hank
Subject: Re: Alternate names for 'McKay' Community Forest

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Hank,

Since McKay was the name of the logging company, I think we should look into a more meaningful name for this new community resource. Let's make sure this is an inclusive and respectful project :)

The Wiyot people lived here for thousands of years before we came and started changing and using the natural resources, including logging the redwood forests. I think we can use a name different than the McKay to bring awareness to the history and culture of this area. Any other names, like Ryan Creek/Slough would be good to be renamed at this time too.

Since the Community Forest is a new project, this is the ideal time to consider other names. I would definitely recommend discussions with the local tribes for their input.

Thank you,
Jessica

On Thu, Jun 2, 2022, 5:10 PM Seemann, Hank <HSeemann@co.humboldt.ca.us> wrote:

Hi Jessica-

Could you expand on your perspective regarding the name? Do you have a concern about the name "McKay"? Are there specific reasons that you believe an alternative name would be beneficial?

Sincerely,
Hank

Hank Seemann
Deputy Director - Environmental Services
Humboldt County Public Works Department
1106 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707-268-2680

From: Jessica Heiden
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 10:18 PM
To: Seemann, Hank <HSeemann@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Alternate names for 'McKay' Community Forest

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello Deputy Director Seeman,

We are hoping that other names will be considered for the future Community Forest in Humboldt. Currently the name being used is the McKay Community Forest. The question about alternate names was brought up during the May 12th meeting, but it was near the end and unfortunately does not seem to be on the recording (<https://humboldt.gov/CivicMedia?VID=76>).

Although you mentioned there is a history and association with the name "McKay", we are hoping the County is open to alternatives. For example, Patrick's Point State Park was renamed 'Sue-meg' State Park. It was probably a lot more work to rename an existing State Park, so looking into alternative names for the Community Forest as early as possible seems like a good idea.

For the Community Forest project, will you be looking into alternative names?

Thank you,
Jessica & Trey



Forest Stewardship Plan Comment Form

Date June 1, 2022

Where do you live? Eureka Name (Optional): Pamela Cosel

Email (optional): _____

Please add me to the McKay Community Forest e-newsletter list **YES**

1. The management goals are listed in the table below. Do you have any suggestions or concerns?

Yes, I think it looks good, and with regard to “recreation” and public use, I want to bring up the issue of **DOGS** on the trail. Many pet owners walk with their dogs, of course. Please be sure to work this into the plan. Meaning: please install stands with “doggie bags” and trash cans for such, here and there. Also, I have lived in a city where there was an “off-leash” dog park, and I don’t know if that fits into the design. Most trails should require dogs to be ON leash, though.

Community Forest Management Goals

| Management Goal | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Forest Stewardship | Practice environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, economically viable forest management |
| Environmental Values | Conserve and enhance the environmental values of the forest to maintain its biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes |
| Working Forest | Maintain a working forest that supports timber-related jobs and economic productivity on a sustainable basis |
| Public Access and Recreation | Provide high-quality recreational opportunities to support active living and enhance quality of life |
| Community Involvement | Encourage robust public involvement to ensure that the community forest meets the community’s desires and interests and is valued as a community asset |
| Public Safety | Manage the community forest to promote a safe and secure environment for families and visitors of all ages |
| Education | Contribute to an awareness of modern forest management practices and create opportunities for outdoor educational activities |

2. What is most important to you about the McKay Community Forest?

Being sure that the plan is run smoothly and funded wisely: not too much spent but enough to get the job done

3. Are there parts of the Forest Stewardship Plan that could be improved?

See my comments above about including dogs in the plan.

4. How can the McKay Community Forest provide the most valuable benefits to the public?

Make it accessible to all ages, including parents with infants on bikes, strollers possibly, handicapped persons, and dogs/pets.

Comment Forms can be e-mailed to mckayforest@co.humboldt.ca.us

From: [Rees Hughes](#)
To: [McKay Forest](#)
Subject: Considering Alternative Names for McKay Community Forest
Date: Tuesday, June 07, 2022 11:35:40 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hank,

I would like to suggest that, at some point, serious consideration be given to reconsidering the name of the McKay Community Forest. Elevating the name of another lumber baron not particularly known for enlightened or progressive timber management and not associated with local philanthropy, seems like a lost opportunity.

While I don't have a specific name to suggest, I do think that it would be appropriate to appoint a committee representing a diversity of interests and perspectives to vet potential new names.

Rees

Attachment E: Notes from meeting with private inholding property owners

Meeting notes – Stakeholder outreach for McKay Community Forest Stewardship Plan

Participants: David Greene and Melanie McCavour (property owners of private inholding within the McKay Community Forest), Hank Seemann (County of Humboldt), Natalie Arroyo (Redwood Community Action Agency)

Meeting date: May 17, 2022

Property owner concerns by category

The logging road leading to their property from Harris Street:

- Section 1.2.1 (Community Setting) indicates that the “R line” road and R-1 road are used by residents of the private inholding to travel to their home, but this should also be stated in Section 3.6 (Transportation System).
- Concerns about safety of non-motorized users on the roadway leading to their property due to narrow roadway and traffic volumes. David and Melanie estimate that there are between 10-20 one-way trips on the road daily. This includes PG&E, the residents and their family, visitors to the private property, AirBnB of the private property, and postal workers/ delivery personnel.
- The gate on the R Line road at Harris Street that was previously locked is problematic. The lock would become frozen, muddy, and difficult to unlock. It would not stay open when driving through. Currently Green Diamond is keeping the gate open. The owners of the private property do not object to a gate, but want it to be an automatic/ electrified gate, or a gate where the locking mechanism is easier to reach and the gate can be made to stay open while driving through. With the gate open, there has been more vehicle traffic and dumping. Melanie would like to see a gate modification so that the gate can be closed, but is also easier to use. Hank will help to identify the new Green Diamond staffperson to communicate this to, since Green Diamond is responsible for the gate.
- David and Melanie have performed maintenance on the road leading to their property. The road easement document created in 2009 defines maintenance responsibilities for the non-exclusive easement.
- Brush has encroached on the road and needs to be cut back. The County plans to cut back the vegetation and maintain vegetation to increase sight distance when formal trail use is designated on the road. Road width must accommodate a fire truck.
- Melanie and David would like to see a delineated part of the roadway for non-motorized users. They wish to see delineators or “bike paddles” used, and the roadway either widened or vegetation cleared to use the full roadway width. Hank, Melanie and David did not agree about this approach. Hank believes the roadway cannot be widened sufficiently to establish a “trail lane” separate from the vehicle travel lane for the entire length due to adjacent wetlands. In addition, Hank believes that the paddles would not be effective in preventing people from walking or biking on the full width of the road. The County proposes a “shared use” approach for this low volume road, where motorized vehicles are responsible for using extra caution and non-motorized users may share the road.
- Melanie asked about exploring alternative ways to access the property, such as an extension of the road planned for the new Kramer property development. The road will end to the west of the inholding property, and the land is steep there. Hank does not think it is a likely option due to the grade involved.

Other requests and considerations:

- The use hours for public access will be dawn to dusk. Signage will be needed to convey this message. No lighting will be provided nor is being proposed by the County.
- Signage is needed to indicate appropriate uses and convey that the R-Line and R-1 roads are not open to vehicular use by the general public.
- David and Melanie's home is fully electrified and they agreed not to use natural gas. There is a large gas line, which could be removed.

Other comments on Forest Stewardship Plan:

- No concerns noted about the forestry aspects of the plan, which were reviewed.
- David and Melanie wish to have a visual barrier to the extent feasible around their property. In particular, they noted the Sitka spruce along the southeast portion of the property, but they wish to preserve a visual barrier on all sides. They want to minimize the aesthetic impact on their p

Attachment F: Photos from Tabling Events

