

# Weaverville vying for city-owned forest

The Associated Press

WEAVERVILLE — Worried that excessive logging might obliterate their scenic surroundings, residents of this Trinity County town want a forest of their own.

They're hoping for a 700-acre slice of city-owned land that could meet a wide range of needs like fish habitat, recreation, and small scale timber harvesting.

The forest is owned by the Bureau of Land Management, which proposed in 1999 to hand the land over to logging company Sierra Pacific Industries. That prompted the movement to turn the land into a community forest just southwest of town.

"We were very concerned

about the BLM trading land that was so visible in the Weaverville basin to a timber company that is known for hitting its land pretty hard," said Colleen O'Sullivan, a board member on the Trinity County Resource Conservation District.

The swap never happened, but the bureau still wants to dispose of the land. Just last year, the resource district agreed to explore whether it could own and manage a community forest there.

The idea of community forest has been tested in Arcata, where the city has purchased 622 acres of redwood forest over the past 50 years.

It was the first city-owned forest in California and is shared by walkers, tree-cutters and wildlife.

EUREKA TIMES-STD  
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