

WEAVERVILLE COMMUNITY FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

FY 2009 Annual Report

(Cooperative Agreement NO. BAA050055)

**Prepared by
Trinity County Resource Conservation District**

**For
USDI, Bureau of Land Management – Redding Field Office**



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WEAVERVILLE COMMUNITY FOREST ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Agreement BAA050055

I. BACKGROUND

In 2005, several community meetings and on-site field trips were conducted and a cooperative agreement and initial stewardship forest plan was developed. In 2006, the initial project operation and management plan was designed to implement initial fuels treatment work on some of the highest fire risk areas near the Timber Ridge subdivision. This included removal of commercial trees that were cut and decked during a PG&E utility line right-of-way clearance. The harvest plan for the initial fuels treatment was prepared and sold to the Trinity County Resource Conservation District. In 2007, the Strategic Plan was completed for the Community Forest. In addition, the first phase forest fuels treatment timber sale was completed and another community meeting was held that revalidated continued support for the Weaverville Community Forest stewardship project.

II. PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- A. Location: BLM public lands adjacent to the community of Weaverville, CA, Trinity County.

Specific project location for this mechanical treatment phase is; portions of Sections 11, 12 & 13, T33N, R10W, MDB&M bounded roughly by the second unnamed tributary to Weaver Creek west of Mill Street, the lower slope south of the PG&E high voltage power line and Weaver Creek, and Timber Ridge subdivision on the southeast, the divide between the Democrat Gulch and Weaver Creek drainages on the west, "Noble" Road and an unnamed haul road between it and Democrat Gulch Road on the northeast, and Democrat Gulch Road on the east.

- B. Description: Heavily timbered ponderosa pine- Douglas fir forests on mainly north aspects of Democrat Ridge within the Weaver Creek Drainage. Elevations range from 1,900 – 3,000'. The topography of the project area is generally characterized by short moderately steep slopes (25-70%), with a main ridge running northwest to southeast.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship Project is a multi-year project planned on approximately 1000-acres of densely forested BLM public lands adjacent to the town of Weaverville. The Stewardship project will meet both the Weaverville community and BLM management objectives for multiple use resource management, reducing hazardous fuels near communities, and improving overall forest health.

Revenue generated from the 2007 Timber Sale is used to complete proposed projects on BLM lands within the Community Forest. These projects are in accordance with the Community Forest Strategic Plan such as: additional sustained yield forest health treatments, road and trail maintenance, access management and patrol, cultural inventory and interpretation, noxious weed management, and effectiveness monitoring.

III. PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED (2008-2009)

1. Plan Phase II Forest Health Treatment

TCRCD and the BLM developed a plan and complete NEPA for Phase II (Mining District) of the Weaverville Community Forest. A portion of this plan includes details to deal with the bug infestation that is affecting portions of the Weaverville Community Forest. The NEPA documentation for this task is separate from the NEPA document that was prepared for other tasks in the strategic work plan. Cost \$10,000.

2. Prepare NEPA for additional Tasks

In order to complete some of the below mentioned tasks, proper NEPA documentation is required. This task provided funds to complete any required documentation, cost \$2,000.

3. Design Future Recreation And Education Plan

BLM and TCRCD are working with local educational providers and recreational users to provide needed educational & recreational opportunities. Some portion of this task was to work with those interested in developing a "ropes course" within the Weaverville Community Forest. We developed a Weaverville Community Forest brochure that includes a map and other educational information (see attached), cost \$1,200

Input is being solicited from WCF steering committee and community-at-large on such recreation and education planning topics as:

- Best methods and venues to regionally promote and increase use of WCF and its trails network.
- Opportunities to ensure and increase handicap-accessible recreational and educational resources.
- Engaging area schools and organizations to provide educational and recreational opportunities for youths and adults in WCF.
- Best ways to meet needs of area OHV riders and other users with appropriate recreation opportunities that minimize erosion and sediment delivery.
- Use of Internet and other venues to make WCF interpretive materials widely available.
- Long-term development of additional recreational and educational resources in WCF.
- Needs for signage and other interpretive materials.

4. Design And Build Loop Trail Lined To West Weaver Trail With Interpretive Signage

Using existing mining ditches and other natural features, TCRCO constructed a loop recreational trail within the Phase I boundary. This trail connects with the existing Weaver Basin Trail system, specifically the West Weaver Trail and will include interpretive signage where appropriate, cost \$7,000 (signage will be installed during 2010)

5. Develop and implement road and trail maintenance plan

Many of the roads and trails within the Community Forest need maintenance and upgrades due to the increased usage. This task provided funds to develop a plan. This plan ensures proper management of the roads as well as existing trails and includes maintenance, cost \$20,000

6. Native American cultural outreach--Traditional ecological knowledge

This task enabled the TCRCO and BLM to work with local Native American groups and use traditional ecological knowledge when managing the Weaverville Community Forest. It also enabled the TCRCO to work with local Native American groups to manage resources within the WCF that are important to those groups, cost \$500

7. Annual survey/maintenance and monitoring

Using TCRCO staff, the existing Christmas tree farm was surveyed and necessary maintenance was performed. The 2007 scotch broom eradication program was also surveyed to ensure continued success. Monitoring of the Weaverville Community Forest includes before and after photo points throughout the forest , cost \$4,000

8. Sub-Merchantable timber (from Phase I) and biomass demonstration project

District used small diameter timber from Phase I through the TCRCO Biomass Utilization grant to construct a pole pavilion at Lee Fong Park. Hazard fuels reduction and prescribed fire unit prep conducted as part of Phase I Post Treatment, cost \$25,000



9. Black Locust Forest Investigation

Explored the origin, condition and history of the Black Locust Forest located within the Weaverville Community Forest, cost \$500

10. Heritage Fruit Trees

Worked with Carol Fall and the UC Cooperative Extension to provide assistance in identifying the varieties of the heritage fruit trees within the Weaverville Community Forest and subsequently collecting scion wood and propagating grafts, cost \$500

IV. PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED (2009-2010)

2009-2010 Projects include five items with a total of \$26,000 including:

- 1) Plan Mining District forest health treatment (\$10,000)
NEPA has been completed. Forester has been contracted to mark the trees.
- 2) Build loop trail linked to West Weaver Trail (\$ 7,000)
The 1.5 mile trail has been completed. Bridges and signs on the West Weaver Trail will be installed in the spring of 2010.
- 3) WCF Road Upgrade and Maintenance (\$2,000)
Treated about 1.5 miles of road with spot rocking. Installed 3 24"x 40' ditch relief culverts and 1 culvert at a crossing 30"x 30' upgrade.



- 4) Annual survey/maintenance and monitoring (\$2,000)
No work has yet been done on this task.
- 5) BLM prescribed fire unit prep and fuels reduction (\$5,000)
Complete

V. FIELD TRIPS / TOURS



Humboldt State University class- April 2, 2009

Weaverville Community Forest community meeting (over 50 people attended) – April 15, 2009

WRTC/USFS “Forest Fitness” Conference – June, 2009

Environmental Travel Companions Service project (stream monitoring) - June 29-30, 2009

Weekly trips from Weaverville Summer Camp – July 1-31, 2009

Public KCHO radio station interview and tour – September 11, 2009

UC Cooperative Extension tour – September 29, 2009

Weaverville Community Forest received Department of the Interior Partners in Conservation Award in Washington D.C in May, 2009

VI. LEVERAGED FUNDS

- Trinity River Restoration Program watershed funds for roads in the Community Forest (Democrat Gulch, \$50,000)
- State Water Resources Control Board for roads in the Community Forest (\$40,000)
- USFS for roads in the Community Forest (Browns, China Gulch,)
- Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee for trail maintenance (\$10,000)
- Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee for road upgrade (\$15,000)
- Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee for China Gulch road upgrade (\$144,000)
- Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee for Riparian (\$31,000)
- Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee for Oregon Mtn Community Forest Restoration (\$53,000)
- State Water Resources Control Board for CreekWatch monitoring work

Other Projects

- Firewood sales (grossed \$4,000)
- Boughs for LAPP wreath fundraiser (raised over \$3,000) to benefit Lowden Aquatic Park Pool
- CreekWatch and Summer Camp field trips
- After School Site Coordinator Water Quality Monitoring Training (November 14, 2009)
- Tree planting with Girls Scout troop in the “Christmas Tree Farm” (November 14, 2009)

VII. FINANCIAL

Through the end of December 2009 \$76,149 was spent implementing these tasks out of the total budgeted \$103,770.