

2016

Conservation Easement Monitoring Report



**For: Usal Redwood
Forest Conservation
Easement**

10/20/2016

Usal Forest Conservation Easement Monitoring Inspection Report

Prepared by

Brook Darley RPF #2499, Forest Legacy Program Manager, Cal Fire

DATES OF MONITORING: October 20, 2016

1. Easement Name: Usal Redwood Forest. Size in Acres: Approximately 49,576.
Date Conservation Easement Acquired October 27, 2011.

Location: North end of Mendocino County, encompassing the Usal Creek watershed and several tributaries to the South Fork of the Eel River. Approximately 26 miles due north of the city of Fort Bragg. Generally, a well blocked out property 12 miles North/South by 10 miles East/West.
U.S.G.S. 7 ½' Quadrangles: Bear Harbor, Piercy, Leggett, Mistake Point, Hales Grove

2. Current Land Owner: Redwood Forest Foundation Inc. dba Usal Redwood Forest Company, LLC.
3. Conservation Easement Holder: Cal Fire
4. Description of Current Land Use: The property is being managed as a working forest. Current land use practices include road maintenance, timber harvest, forest restoration and instream restoration.
5. Date of Monitoring Inspection: October 20, 2016.
6. Narration: The inspection began (review of maps and discussion) at the Forester's office in Fort Bragg at 8:00. Once this was completed, the group traveled to the Usal Forest and began the inspection by reviewing the area impacted by the illegal marijuana trespass noted within the 2015 monitoring report. This area is located within the southern portion of the ownership, south of highway 1. The main focus of the rest of the inspection centered around locating the photo point areas established in 2011-2012 and taking updated photos as required by the CE.
7. Observations: No instances of non-conformance with the conservation easement were observed during the monitoring inspection.

METHOD OF INSPECTION: Ground

TIME SPENT ON THE PROPERTY: 10 hours.

LIST ALL PERSONS ATTENDING INSPECTION (landowner & others):

- Steve Smith, Usal Forest Manager
- Brook Darley, Cal Fire, Forest Legacy Program Manager
- Paul Trouette, Security Consultant
- Andrea Horvath, URFC Forest Conservationist

MONITOR'S NAME: Brook Darley, Cal Fire RPF #2499

ADDRESS AND PHONE: Cal Fire/ Northern Operations Center
6105 Airport Road
Redding CA, 96002
(530) 224-1420

Annual Field Monitoring Checklist

Monitoring Objectives:

Observe conditions on the Property as they relate to provisions within the Conservation Easement. The citation at the bottom of each numbered box refers to the specific paragraph within the Conservation Easement (CE) or Schedule (SC) that is relevant to the question. "Observed" denotes whether or not the specific condition was encountered as part of the monitoring visit. "Concern" denotes whether or not the observation might constitute a non-conformance with the requirements of the Conservation Easement. A Yes (Y) observation shall trigger follow-up visits or documentation review to determine if there has in fact been a non-conformance.

Monitoring Condition	Observed (Y/N)	Concern (Y/N)	Details <i>Explain all responses.</i>
Forestry			
Observation of activity that impairs forest habitat and ecological functions CE ¶ E,F,G	N	N	None observed
Observation of commercial forest management (especially even aged management regimes) SC 4 ¶ 1	N	N	None observed
Observation of fuelwood harvest. SC 5 ¶ 18	N	N	None observed
Observation of non commercial forestry management (e.g. chemical application, tree planting, fire suppression, prescribed burning, restoration/enhancement projects) SC 6 ¶ 2	N	N	None observed
Observation of conformance of Forest Certification Requirements SC 4 ¶ 2	N	N	None observed

Roads	Observed	Concern	
Observation of road maintenance new road construction or reconstruction, or decommissioned roads- must meet CTM Manual standards & Weaver and Hagens "Farm and Ranch Roads" manual SC 5 ¶2 SC 6 ¶13	N	N	None observed
Observation of rock extraction SC 5 ¶3	N	N	No new rock pits have been developed since the last monitoring inspection.
Observation of significant landslides or debris torrents SC 6 ¶11	N	N	None

Residences and Structures	Observed	Concern	
Observation of Designated Improvement Areas SC 5 ¶7 & 9	N	N	None
Observation of Provisional Work Areas SC 5 ¶8	N	N	None
Observation of utilities SC 5 ¶10	N	N	None observed
Observation of new structures outside of designated improvement areas or provisional work areas - <i>prohibited</i> SC 5 ¶7	N	N	None observed
Observation of permanent recreational facilities SC 6 ¶9	N	N	None observed
Observation of non-permitted signs SC 5 ¶4	N	N	Some signage indicating Campbell as the manager of the property remain and need to be removed or replaced.

General	Observed	Concern	
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Observation of impairment of conservation values CE ¶ E,F,G	N	N	None observed
Observation of use or transfer of development rights or granting of parcel interest or subdivision SC 6 ¶ 4&5	N	N	None observed
Observation of industrial, commercial residential agricultural or grazing usage SC 6 ¶ 6&7	N	N	None observed
Observation of dumping, drainage, diking or violation of local, state or federal laws protecting soil and water SC 6 ¶ 11&12	N	N	None observed
Observation of exotic species introduction SC 6 ¶ 15	N	N	None observed
Observation of exploration for or use of renewable energy sources SC 6 ¶ 14	N	N	None observed
Observation of impacts of trespass SC 5 ¶ 6	Y	N	The trespass area south of highway 1 mentioned within the monitoring report for 2015 was inspected this year. The landowner has worked hard to remove evidence of this trespass and no evidence of any environmental damage was noted to have occurred.
Observation of non-permitted grazing SC 5 ¶ 15	N	N	None observed
24/ Observation of recreational off-road motorized use <i>Prohibited</i> SC 5 ¶ 12	N	N	None observed

Office Based Monitoring Checklist

Monitoring Objectives:

- Collect and review additional data sources to monitor compliance with terms and conditions of the Conservation Easement noted below. Additional data may include, but not be limited to: THPs, RWQCB permits, DFG 1603 permits, Restoration Contracts, Scaling Bureau Tickets, Yield Tax records, Aerial Photographs, etc.
- This checklist should be reviewed annually to determine which questions are relevant to activities implemented in current year.

Monitoring Condition	Observed	Concern	Details <i>Explain all responses.</i>
Carbon offset registration does not diminish or impair the Conservation Values, easement restrictions are considered as part of the baseline, summary of annual activity provided. SC 5 ¶20	Y	N	
Timber harvest, proposed THPs or amendments to THPs inconsistent with terms of CE SC 6 ¶2	N	N	None observed
Forest certification SC 4 ¶2	Y	N	FSC certification obtained as of 9/3/2015. Evaluate future compliance with CAR specifics in future monitoring.
Legal or de facto division, subdivision or partitioning of the Property into two or more legal parcels is prohibited. SC ¶5	N	N	None observed
Granting subsequent easement on the Property that might adversely affect the Conservation Purpose of the Easement. SC 6 ¶1	N	N	None observed
Aerial photo observation of structures, large scale forest condition changes and rock and gravel pits. SC 6 ¶	N	N	None observed

Summary Comments or General Observations

Notable events occurring since 2016 monitoring inspection:

- FSC certification was achieved on September 3, 2015, as required by the Conservation Easement.
 - FSC certification requires the addressing of multiple minor CARs (Corrective Action Requests, as detailed within the FSC certification report). The landowner generally has until September, 2020 to address these issues for re-certification to occur). It appears the landowner is making great strides in CAR compliance.
- The three illegal trespass marijuana plantations mentioned within the 2015 monitoring report, located within the southern portion of the property and south of highway 1 where inspected during the 2016 inspection. The landowner has made a great effort in cleaning and rehabbing the site as needed. There are no indications of any environmental damage because of this trespass. I met with the security contractor Paul Trouette during the inspection to discuss this specific sight as well as overall security for the property and feel very confident the landowner is committed to long term security for the Usal Forest.
- During the inspection, it was noted that signs indicating the managers of the property as Campbell Global still existed in different areas (mainly near highway 1). This outdated signage needs to be removed or replaced with accurate updated signage.
- The focus of the 2016 monitoring inspection was the locating and updating of the baseline photo locations established in 2011-2012. Some of the photo points were difficult to locate, and a few were not accessible at the time of the inspection due to time limitations and distance from the starting point. Some of the features believed to be the reason for the photo point being established (i.e. slide areas, stand conditions, etc.) will not be visible soon due to changing stand conditions. It may be necessary for the CAL FIRE inspector, with the input of URFC to establish new photo point locations and remove those existing locations where no pertinent information is being gathered.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT VERIFICATION

DATE: 3/14/17

Inspector: Brook Darley

Landowner requests a copy of monitoring report prior to submittal

Landowner does not request a copy of monitoring report prior to submittal

Copies of the Monitoring Report to be submitted to the following:

Grantor: (Mark Welther) Usal Redwood Forest Company, LLC, PO Box 12,
Mendocino, CA 95460 mark@rffi.org

Wildlife Conservation Board, Attention Executive Director, 1807 13th Street, Suite
103, Sacramento CA 95811. Chad Fien

Linwood Gill, URFC Chief Forester – 528 South Main Street, Fort Bragg CA
95437 linwood@rffi.org

Stephen G. Smith, URFC Forester - 528 South Main Street, Fort Bragg CA
95437 forester@mcn.org



Figure 1: Photo Point #1- Residual timber with 35 year understory.



Figure 2: Photo Point #2- Class II shot gunned culvert on MM Road



Figure 3: Photo Pint #3- Usal Creek Bridge on road to Julius Creek, Bridge #16.

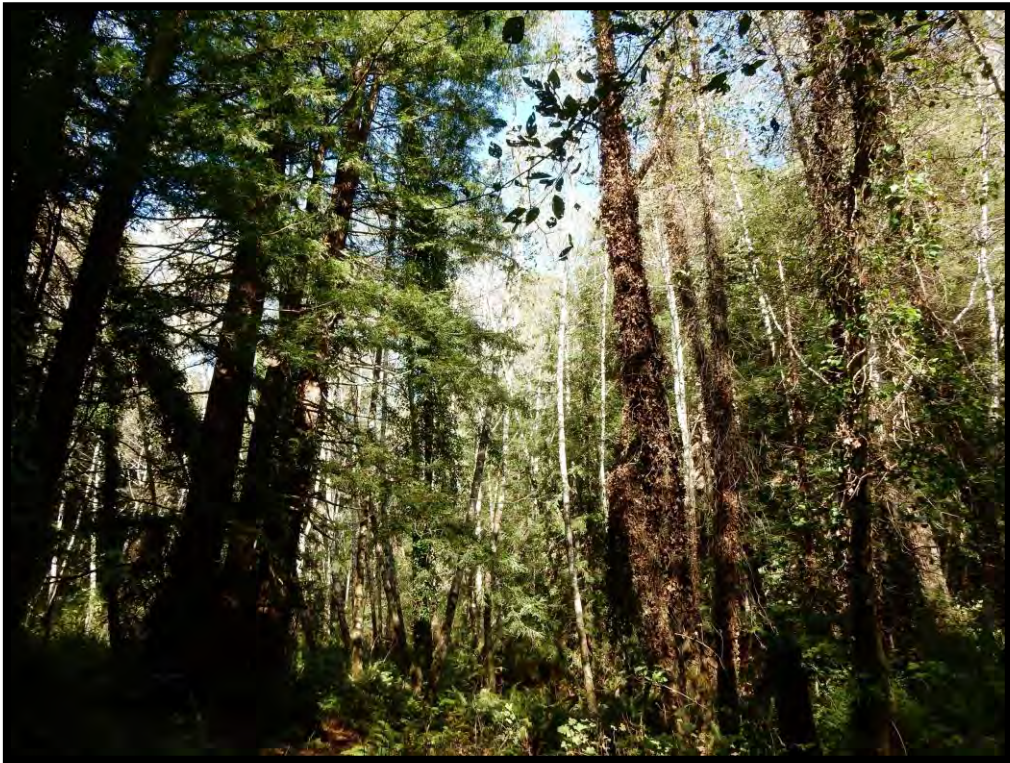


Figure 4: Photo Point #4- English Ivy near Usal Beach.



Figure 5: Photo Point #5- Pampas Grass in Soldier Creek Drainage.



Figure 6: Photo Point #6- Soldier Creek Slide occurred on 1/1/96.



Figure 7: The above two pictures were taken at Photo Point #7, two tanks at WPR 4a drafting site.



Figure 8: Photo Point #8- Williams Shop rock pit.



Figure 9: Photo Point #9- Standley Creek drainage from Rattlesnake rock pit.



Figure 10: Photo Point #10- Large double snag as seen from road.



Figure 11: Phot Point #12- Shaded fuel break 7 years after treatment, looking north.



Figure 12: Photo Point #17- Bridge to Reist Ranch /Hollow Tree Creek



Figure 13: Photo Point #18- Slide on Reist Ranch Road



Figure 14: Photo Point #19- Winke Flat



Figure 15: Photo of typical stand along main Usal road



Figure 16: Usal Creek restoration site



Figure 17: Four pictures of cleared area for marijuana trespass grow site

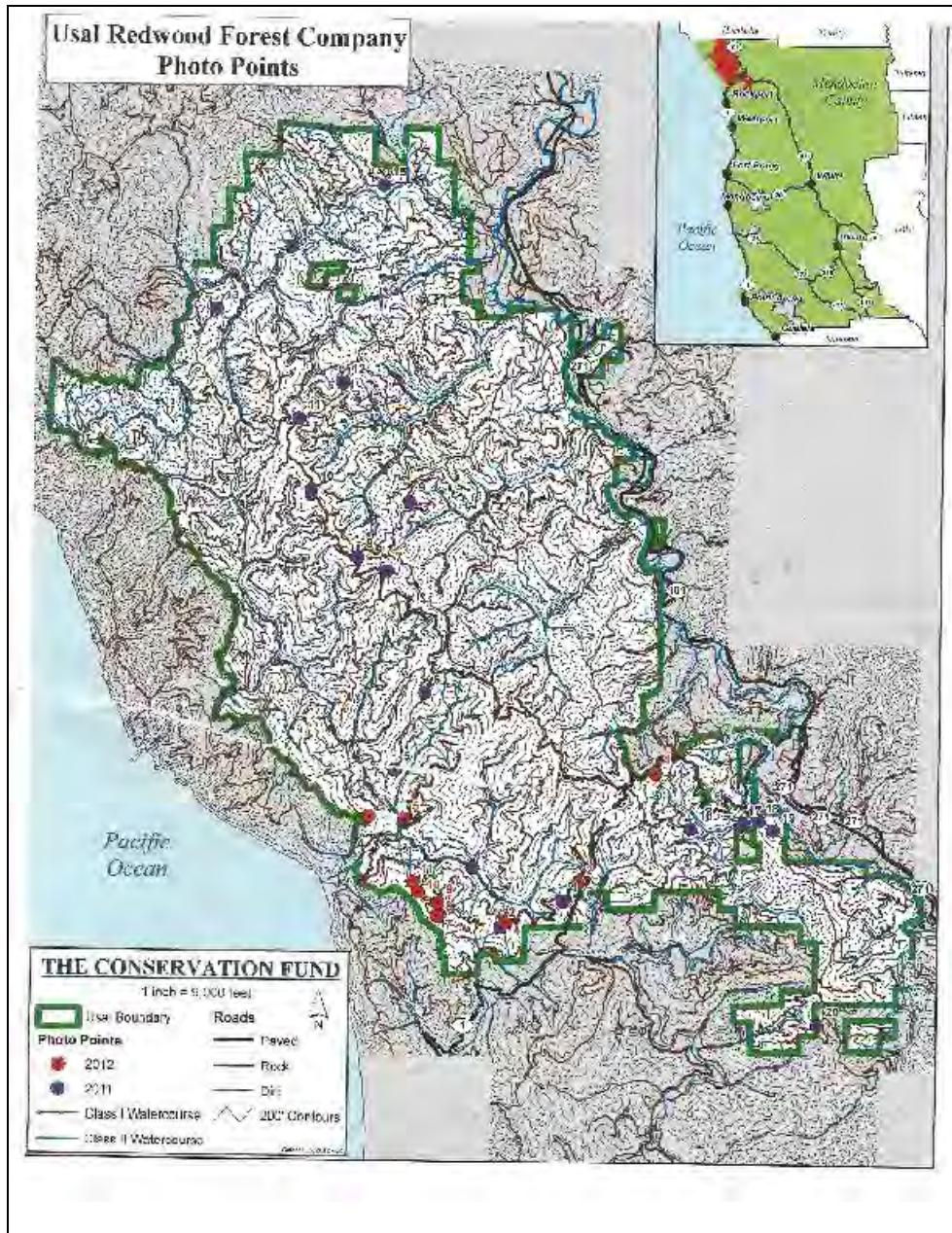
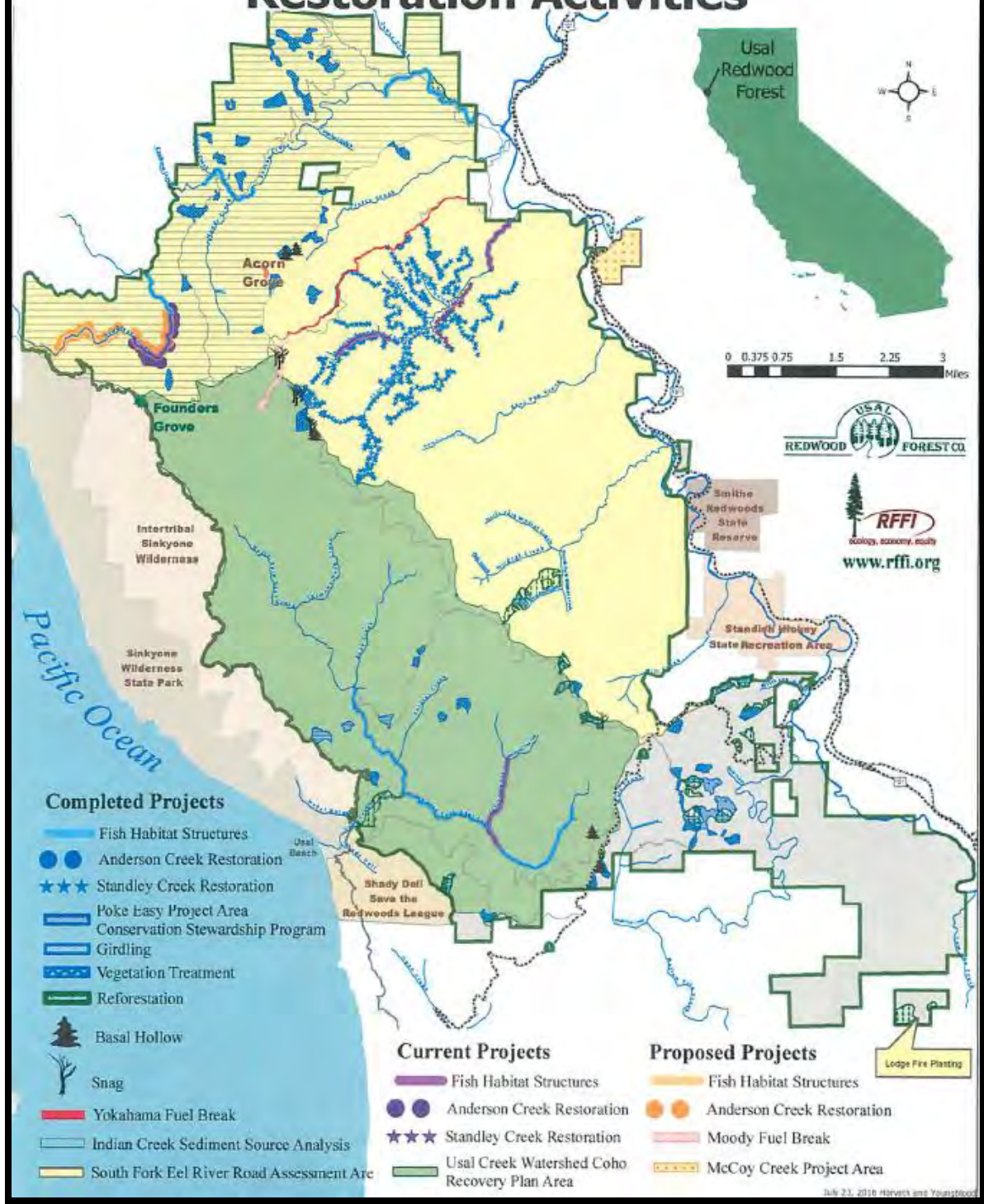


Figure 18: Photo Point map

Usal Redwood Forest Company, LLC Tree Planting Locations 2011-2016



Usal Redwood Forest Company, LLC Restoration Activities



Usal Redwood Forest-Company, LLC Harvest Operations 2011-2016

