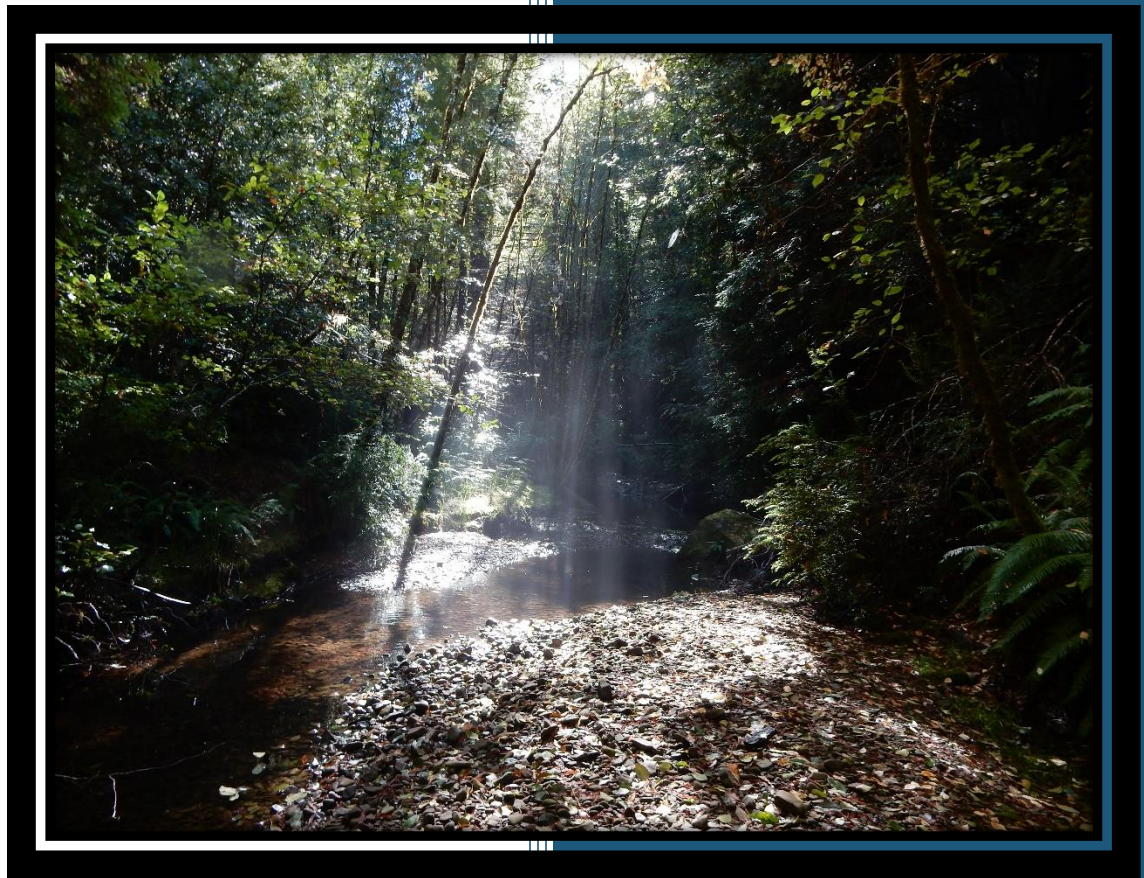


2017

Conservation Easement  
Monitoring Report



**For: Usal Redwood  
Forest Conservation  
Easement**

10/23/2017

# Usal Forest Conservation Easement Monitoring Inspection Report

Prepared by

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

**DATES OF MONITORING:** October 23, 2017

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 23, 2017.
6. Narration: The inspection began by meeting the new forest manager Linwood Gill as well as other staff. This occurred as well as 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 field inspection.

**METHOD OF INSPECTION:** Ground

**TIME SPENT ON THE PROPERTY:** 10 hours.

**LIST ALL PERSONS ATTENDING INSPECTION (landowner & others):**

- Linwood Gill – URFC Forest Manager
- Brook Darley, Cal Fire, Forest Legacy Program Manager
- Joaquin Quintana – UFRC Forest Technician
- 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 the specific condition was encountered as part of the monitoring visit. “Concern” denotes whether 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.

<b>Monitoring Condition</b>	<b>Observed (Y/N)</b>	<b>Concern (Y/N)</b>	<b>Details</b> <i>Explain <b>all</b> responses.</i>
<b>Forestry</b>			
Observation of activity that impairs forest habitat and ecological functions CE ¶ E, F, G	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of commercial forest management (especially even aged management regimes) SC 4 ¶ 1	Y	N	<b>Currently active forest management on 5 approved THP’s: South Fork, Mill Creek, Little Bear, WRP and Piercy Crossing.</b>
Observation of fuelwood harvest. SC 5 ¶ 18	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of non-commercial forestry management (e.g. chemical application, tree planting, fire suppression, prescribed burning, restoration/enhancement projects) SC 6 ¶ 2	Y	N	<b>Inspected road abandonment/de-commissioning. Also, inspected pre-commercial thinning which occurred within 30-45 days of this inspection.</b>
Observation of conformance of Forest Certification Requirements SC 4 ¶ 2	Y	N	
<b>Roads</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>Concern</b>	

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	Y	N	<b>Inspected road de-commissioning in separate areas totaling approximately 2 miles</b>
Observation of rock extraction SC 5 ¶3	N	N	<b>No new rock pits have been developed since the last monitoring inspection.</b>
Observation of significant landslides or debris torrents SC 6 ¶11	N	N	<b>None</b>

<b>Residences and Structures</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>Concern</b>	
Observation of Designated Improvement Areas SC 5 ¶7 & 9	N	N	<b>None</b>
Observation of Provisional Work Areas SC 5 ¶8	N	N	<b>None</b>
Observation of utilities SC 5 ¶10	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of new structures outside of designated improvement areas or provisional work areas - <i>prohibited</i> SC 5 ¶7	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of permanent recreational facilities SC 6 ¶9	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of non-permitted signs SC 5 ¶4	N	N	<b>None observed</b>

<b>General</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>Concern</b>	
Observation of impairment of conservation values CE ¶ E, F, G	N	N	<b>None observed</b>

Observation of use or transfer of development rights or granting of parcel interest or subdivision SC 6 ¶4&5	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of industrial, commercial residential agricultural or grazing usage SC 6 ¶6&7	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of dumping, drainage, diking or violation of local, state or federal laws protecting soil and water SC 6 ¶11&12	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of exotic species introduction SC 6 ¶15	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of exploration for or use of renewable energy sources SC 6 ¶14	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of impacts of trespass  SC 5 ¶6	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Observation of non-permitted grazing SC 5 ¶15	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
24/ Observation of recreational off-road motorized use <i>Prohibited</i> SC 5 ¶12	N	N	<b>None observed</b>

## 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.

<b>Monitoring Condition</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>Concern</b>	<b>Details</b> <i>Explain <b>all</b> 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	N	N	
Timber harvest, proposed THPs or amendments to THPs inconsistent with terms of CE SC 6 ¶2	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Forest certification SC 4 ¶2	Y	N	<b>FSC certification obtained as of 9/3/2015. Evaluate future compliance with CAR specifics in future monitoring.</b>
Legal or de facto division, subdivision or partitioning of the Property into two or more legal parcels is prohibited. SC ¶5	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Granting subsequent easement on the Property that might adversely affect the Conservation Purpose of the Easement. SC 6 ¶1	N	N	<b>None observed</b>
Aerial photo observation of structures, large scale forest condition changes and rock and gravel pits. SC 6 ¶	N	N	<b>None observed</b>

## Summary Comments or General Observations

Notable events occurring since 2017 monitoring inspection:

- During the monitoring inspection, the CAL FIRE inspector was informed by the Forest Manager of a forest practice violation issued to the LTO (Licensed Timber Operator) harvesting within Unit C of the approved THP (Timber Harvest Plan) Piercy Crossing (1-14-105-MEN) on August 22, 2017 for inadvertently harvesting 1-1.5 acres within a designated retention area. CAL FIRE notified URFC this was a violation of Section 12 of the Conservation Easement in a letter dated December 6, 2017, which requires compliance of all applicable state, federal and county rules and laws. There was no significant environmental damage as a result of the violation noted during the monitoring inspection. Specific changes to unit boundary delineation for future harvesting were agreed to by both the Grantor and Grantee to minimize the possibility for future LTO confusion.

## Annual Monitoring Report Verificaion

DATE: 11/17/17 Inspector: Brook Darley

\* Updated 2/1/2018

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: Usal Redwood Forest Company, LLC, PO Box 12, Mendocino, CA 95460

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

Linwood Gill, URFC Chief Forester



**Figure 1 – Road decommissioning/ restoration project.**



**Figure 2 – Recent Timber Stand Improvement Project**



**Figure 3 – Post Harvest**



**Figure 4 Road decommissioning/ restoration project**

# Usal Redwood Forest Company

## Conservation Easement Monitoring 2015

