



Summary Social Impact Report 2025

ECONOMIC

Local Contracting & Local Purchasing

Usal Redwood Forest Company, LLC (URFC) and Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc (RFF) contracts within the region for various services:

URFC: Timber Harvest Plan (THP) consulting, inventory cruising, logging, hauling, road work, carbon verification, FSC auditing, botanical and cultural monitoring surveys, geological review of THPs, reforestation, restoration activities, site preparation, stand improvements, fire resilience, cultural burns, smart technology for weather and wildlife monitoring, security, tree planting, carbon plot surveys, and vehicle purchasing and maintenance.

RFF: Communications support, financial accounting/audit support, community relations, Forest Advisory Committee, website, donor development, Native American Honoraria, Annual Meeting production. In 2025 RFFI contracted with a new CEO.

URFC			
Year	Major Local Vendors/Contractors	Approximate Value of Goods and Services	Community Donations
2025	47 5 of these contractors were Local Tribal members	\$695,681 No logging was done on the forest so there were no harvesting and hauling costs	\$1,175 Cut & split firewood was donated to local community members and fire departments.

RFF			
Major Local Vendors/Contractors		Approximate Value of Goods and Services	Community Donations
2025	52 5 of these contractors were Local Tribal members or tribal groups	\$122,239	\$1200

Community Partnerships

Mendocino/Humboldt County Forest Reciprocity Collective Woody Feedstock Pilot Project

In 2025, RFFI/URFC, in partnership with Cloud Forest Institute's Forest Reciprocity Group, embarked on a feasibility study for the removal and processing of small diameter wood from Usal. This is a small-scale economic development and wildfire resiliency project. The group has identified a processing site, and in 2026 we will pilot a small diameter wood removal and delivery project on a larger scale.

Safety Record for 2025

There were no injuries in 2025.

Personnel Costs

Usal Redwood Forest Company, LLC

Year	# of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees	Total Personnel Costs
2025	7 1 Full Time Seasonal	\$917,447.37

Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.

Year	# of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees	Total Personnel Costs
2025	2 Full Time 1 Part Time	\$265,979

Carbon Certification contractors

URFC contracts with US Forest Capital out of Portland, Oregon for management of our carbon credit certification and sale processes, and NCRM, Inc. for carbon offset program calculations.

Internships for students

URFC annually hires one or two summer interns from either Cal Poly Humboldt (formerly Humboldt State University) or College of the Redwoods, providing real world experience for those students who perform a variety of tasks that happen in the summer months. This is part of our commitment to rebuilding the local workforce.

COMMUNITY

2025 Annual Meeting

The 2025 Annual Meeting was held in person on Saturday, November 26, 2025, with 60 community members participating.

New CEO Matt Hill reflected on the year's accomplishments and challenges sharing his vision

for URFC and RFF in the future.

Our keynote speaker was Susan Charnley an environment anthropologist focusing on research on community-based natural resource use and management. She gave talk on Community Forestry in the US: Insight for the Usal Redwood Forest. The talk highlighted lessons in governance, financial strategy, and success that can inform URFC.

Mike Stephens gave a talk on his work as our Wildlife Biologist in Usal Forest. He has added motion camaras to catch the wildlife passing through. Karen Youngblood, Forest Conservation Specialist, presented the restoration updates and accomplishments.

Community Governance

Community involvement is integral to RFF's existence and operation. It is reflected in our governance by what is currently a twelve-member Board of Directors (we have recently recruited 5 new additional board members) and an advisory group composed of regional representatives.

In 2025, members of the Redwood Forest Council (RFC), RFF's 25-member community advisory group, held a retreat to put forward a new structure and propose to their work advising RFF.

Native American Connections

In 2025, RFF continued providing honorariums to local tribal members supporting their participation in meetings and events. Our partnerships with tribal communities have deepened and they are now integral to our forest stewardship efforts, consistently engaging in work to reconnect with their ancestral lands.

Tribal members are contracted to conduct cultural assessments and provide cultural monitoring on Timber Harvest Plans (THPs). They also did baseline cultural resource assessments for Reist Ranch, a 95 acre family homestead located in Usal forest. In 2009 we dedicated Chinquapin Springs, an acorn grove, for traditional resources and ceremonial practices. Restoration has begun on the grove with thinning and prep for a cultural burn happening in 2026.

We have been supporting the development of local tribes through training, certification and equipment purchases to work in Usal including preparation for future cultural burns at Chinquapin Springs. A grant specifically for Native cultural burns on Parker Flat was awarded by CalFire. The Project Manager in a Tribal member and leading the efforts to survey cultural significant plants for food and basket weaving and to prepare the site for cultural burns in 2026. All the work is being done by tribal members.

Grants

In 2025, RFF was awarded 4 grants for work in the forest.

- Parker Flat is a 2-year CalFire Grant with tribal co-management; native-led cultural restoration; create place and resources, food plants and access to natives for gathering

and collecting using tribal members for all the work. The work was to also prepare Parker Flat for native cultural burns. The budget included computers, chainsaws and other equipment that will remain with the tribes. This grant includes on-site training for tribal members.

- Forest Health Grant Phase II is a 5-year grant from CalFire for ecological and cultural restoration and fire resiliency. It will be co-managed with tribal members. This grant includes training and community outreach events.
- Indian Creek Grant is a 2-year grant from Caltrans to reduce sedimentation into an important Coho Recovery Watershed, Indian Creek and to improve access in case of a wildfire.
- Community Wildfire Defense Grant from the Forest Service. A 5-year grant for fire resiliency, access to anchor points for firefighting, community and Highway One protection. This grant includes training and community outreach events.

Volunteer Program

RFF/URFC benefit from a dedicated group of volunteers, who among other contributions help us conduct a number of educational, citizen science, forest restoration and recreational activities in conjunction with dedicated partners. We generally have about 40 active volunteers, both local residents and from beyond, who volunteer personally or virtually to support our work.

Usal Lost Coast Hopper

URFC again hosted the Usal Hopper bike race, which had over 250 participants. The organization donated a portion of the registration fee toward tree planting. After the Hopper RFF/URFC hosts a fireside chat with those who stay over until Sunday giving us an opportunity to educate them about the vision, goals and objectives of both our forest management and community governance/engagement.

Other events

After purchasing Reist Ranch in 2023, RFF created an active committee to plan for and begin cleanup of that property. Reist Ranch is a 95 acre partially wooded homestead donated to RFF by the owners. There is a conservation easement, modeled after our existing easement on Usal. The forest management will be integrated into the management of Usal. It has the potential to become a research hub as it is less remote than most of our property, has electrical connections and an original water source, along with existing structures (albeit in poor condition.) In 2025 cleanup began with volunteers coming out to remove trash old vehicles, tear down crumbling structures and get the water system back and working.