



Redwood Forest Foundation

Spring 2015

Kathy's Welcome

Kathy Moxon, *Redwood Forest Foundation Board Chair*



In the fall 2014 newsletter, RFFI's president, Mark Welther, outlined a 100-year vision that includes a "RFFI business model" incorporating innovative and recognized best practices. This model improves forest health and long term

productivity by utilizing least-toxic vegetation management practices for invasive species control and produces the conversion to uneven-age management more quickly than the 60-year timeframe called for in the conservation easement

The result will be a sustainable forest in perpetuity with selectively harvested conifers that continue to provide community jobs, products and revenue, while also protecting the ecosystem and the species that depend on a healthy forest. Realizing this vision depends upon the engagement of a larger redwood community for forest management decisions, and it also includes a visitors' center to support public access, education and recreation.

While the vision is clear, the path to achieving it is much less so. But RFFI is encouraged by having reached significant milestones on a number of fronts including,

- Logging operations on schedule to produce seven million board feet this year,
- Submission of Forest Stewardship Council documentation; certification anticipated in 2015,
- Completion of the biochar demonstration project with transition to production and sales,
- Manual vegetation management experiments that, while expensive, hold promise,

- Secured funding for phases five and six, which will complete the water course restoration and road decommissioning in the Standley Creek watershed,
- Completed the Coho Restoration Plan for the South Fork of the Eel, including the identification of projects on Usal Redwood Forest.

These are just a few successes that keep us advancing toward the RFFI model of forestry that will treat forests and livelihoods in a way that respects both people and the environment. This vision depends upon the continued engagement of people who share these goals and contribute to their realization – whether by providing input to forest decision-making, volunteering, or contributing financial support. Now, more than ever, we need your help to make it happen.

RFFI's Annual Meeting & Barbecue July 18, 2015

Save the Date!

Standish-Hickey Recreation Area
Respond to morgan@rffi.org for Lunch Reservations and More Info.

How We Can Be Outstanding in Our Field

Mark Welther, *RFFI Executive Director*



When I was 17, I worked on a small Wisconsin farm, and we used to joke that we were "out standing in our field." Today, RFFI is changing the way forestry is practiced in California's redwoods and, with your help, aims to change forestry everywhere.

We are outstanding in our forest, but to be successful, we need you to join us!

How We Can Be Outstanding in Our Field

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After summarizing the exciting activity going on in Usal, I'll explain how you (and every like-minded person you know) can get involved.

Biochar: In October, RFFI's long-awaited biochar machine was delivered to the Branscomb mill site. This machine is designed to turn tanoak, Usal's low-value "weed" tree, into a marketable gardening product. Under the guidance of Project Manager Judy Harwood, we began producing high-quality RFFI North Coast Biochar and by March were selling in bulk. Sales continue as we help establish a local market.

Carbon: Through the sale of carbon sequestration credits, RFFI hopes to receive funds that will enable us to leave more trees standing; an important component in our financial strategy for improving Usal Forest health. In November, respected carbon certifier SCS Global audited Usal, a significant step toward registration with the State of California to sell carbon credits. We hope to complete registration before the end of 2015.

FSC Certification: In January, SCS conducted a second Usal audit, this time for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. We are working to achieve the FSC label as a "well run forest" by this spring. RFFI plans to treat FSC as the minimum standard, the type required by our 2011 conservation easement, and then to exceed it in every way we can. In so doing, we can help raise forest management standards and awareness across the landscape beyond RFFI borders.

Forest and Watershed Restoration: In January, Usal was awarded grants for two significant restoration projects. The first is for Standley Creek Phases 5 & 6, the final two phases of our five-year road decommissioning and stream bed restoration project. Standley Creek is one of the most important salmon-bearing tributaries of the South Fork of the Eel River. The second grant is for the Usal Creek Coho Recovery Plan.

Completed the Coho Restoration Plan for the South Fork of the Eel – including the identification of projects on Usal Redwood

Forest.

Vegetation Management: In 2013, RFFI instituted a voluntary three-year ban on the use of herbicides in Usal to control low-value hardwoods that compete with redwoods. This year marks our second full season of replacing herbicides with much more expensive manual removal methods (see www.rffi.org for information).

Forest Management: In 2015, RFFI plans to hire our first staff foresters to work side-by-side with our forest management company and advise the RFFI Board of Directors.

Wood Products and Jobs: Our forestry team will move all of these projects forward, while at the same time harvesting seven million board feet of Douglas fir and redwood in 2015 in order to fulfill our financial obligations.

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL:

Give Us Your Input – Your opinions matter to us! In late May, as an element of FSC certification, RFFI will post our first-ever Community Input website page, as well as posting our inaugural Forest Management Plan and monitoring reports that can help you learn more about Usal Forest operations. You are invited to send your input directly to me and other RFFI decision-makers.

Buy North Coast Biochar – now available from Willits Soil.

Attend the RFFI Annual Meeting and Barbeque – July 18 at Standish-Hickey Park, Leggett – Make your reservation at morgan@rffi.org and join the feast. Learn about new initiatives and mingle with RFFI leaders and members. Usal tours are planned.

Make a gift to RFFI - A dollar given to RFFI leverages over \$10 in results. Your gift of \$50, \$100, \$1,000 or more builds RFFI's capacity to secure grants and engage in innovative free-market solutions that address natural resource issues, like restoring Usal salmon streams,

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Community Support for RFFI Biochar Pays Off!

Judith Harwood, *Biochar Project Coordinator*

RFFI's two final workshops and tours in April 2015 received rave reviews from the attendees! More than 100 participants

listened as the project partners explained that the Biochar Demonstration Project is wrapping up and has met its goals. The most exciting results are reflected in the economic analysis, which revealed that in a real world commercial venture, the biochar project will be self-sustaining, with sales revenue covering all costs – including manual thinning of tanoak, transport, chipping, conversion unit operation, project management and overhead. The analysis found that projects like this can indeed be economically feasible

under various implementable scenarios, including locating portable units, like RFFI's, closer to the project sites. The results of the demonstration project and thorough economic analysis confirm that it is now possible to transition into commercial biochar operation.

Visit www.rffi.org/Biochar.html to watch the biochar documentary and North Coast Biochar film and read the final reports, the Biochar Economic Analysis, Marketing Study. Sign up online for e-blasts, tours and notifications of future tours and announcements about this truly community-wide effort, its sponsors and team participants. And, of course, please do visit **Willits Soil Inc.** to purchase our biochar!

NORTH COAST BIOCHAR FOR SALE NOW

Buy RFFI's North Coast Biochar at Willits Soil Inc.
(on Highway 101– north end of Willits, CA)
Open Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Call 707-774-8626 or
email willitssoilsinc@gmail.com
to purchase raw or inoculated biochar.



How We Can Be Outstanding in Our Field

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practicing manual vegetation management, producing biochar and a variety of other forest improvement projects that provide jobs in the woods and in the community. Donate safely online at www.rffi.org/donate.

Get involved – Help RFFI protect the Usal Forest today and you, too, can be outstanding in your forest!

To Support RFFI

Donate online at www.rffi.org

Or mail your check to:

RFFI, PO Box 12
Mendocino, CA 95460

Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 12
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www.RFFI.org

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Courtesy of Redwood Property Group

Redwoods in Manhattan!?

Redwood Property Group (www.redwoodnyc.com) is a commercial real estate firm located in New York City. Their name reflects their attachment to and desire to protect redwood forests. In 2014 they initiated a tree planting program through which they donate one tree for every completed transaction. For each planting, the customer chooses the location – in a Redwood, Israeli, or Costa Rican forest. Redwood Property Group has chosen RFFI's "Plant a Redwood" reforestation program as the way to plant trees for their customers who wish to plant redwoods. Eli Someck, President, says his company is "honored to be included in your newsletter, especially if it encourages other people to donate!" Follow RPG's example and "Plant a Redwood" in honor of your clients, customers, family, friends and loved ones. With your donation, RFFI will plant redwoods in honor of the person(s) of choice and send a lovely 8" by 11" certificate, suitable for framing, identifying the honoree, the special occasion and you as the donor.

Visit www.rffi.org to plant your redwoods.