



## Summary Social Assessment Report 2019

### ECONOMIC

#### *Local Contracting & Local Purchasing*

URFC contracts for various services, including timber harvest plan (THP) consulting, inventory cruising, logging, hauling, road work, carbon verification, FSC auditing, spotted owl surveying, botanical surveys, geological review of THPs, reforestation, restoration activities, site preparation and stand improvements.

Year	Major Local Vendors/Contractors	Approximate Value of Goods and Services	Community Donations
2019	30	\$1,575,845	\$7,847

#### *Safety Record for 2019*

There were no incidents of injury or illness in 2019.

#### *Personnel Costs*

##### **Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.**

Year	# of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees	Total Personnel Costs
2019	3.75	\$314,313

##### **Usal Redwood Forest Company, LLC**

Year	# of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees	Total Personnel Costs
2019	5	\$516,691

#### *Carbon Certification contractors*

URFC contracts with US Forest Capital out of Portland, Oregon for management of our carbon credit certification process.

#### *North Coast Biochar*

RFFI and URFC first entered into the exploration of producing biochar in 2011 at the instigation of community groups. The Mendocino County Woody Biomass Working Group sought alternatives to pile-burning and herbicide use for removing excess woody biomass that creates poor forest health and extreme fire hazards in timberlands. Since then RFFI conducted a successful Biochar Demonstration Project and entered into commercial production of North Coast Biochar in 2017. Although we produced

exceptionally high quality biochar, we determined our machine was not robust enough to produce biochar commercially at a profitable level.

In 2019, we published a comprehensive biomass conversion technology review- an evaluation of biochar conversion machines. It is available at [www.rffi.org/biochar](http://www.rffi.org/biochar). In 2019, we worked with partners at the Sonoma Ecology center, the Sonoma Biochar Initiative, the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District and All Power Labs to evaluate the results of our study, select suitable machine(s) and seek funding to implement our findings. As a first step, we secured funding for the creation of two Kelpie kilns that will be used in our Usal Redwood Forest in 2020. This will convert biomass into biochar to return to forest soils. At the end of 2019, we received a \$22,000 grant from the Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation for use in 2020. This will fund implementing the use of All Power Labs Power Pallets in conjunction with Mendocino County Resource Conservation District. Throughout, 2019 we have worked with a variety of partners and community members to demonstrate the positive impact of biochar on the soil and agriculture. We have also continued our work with the California legislature to establish incentives for biochar production for use on farms, forests and rangeland. As a member of the California Forest Carbon Coalition we have worked with legislators and California State public agency staff to develop incentives for both biochar technology to develop and produce sales as well as for using it in soils.

## ENVIRONMENT

### *Restoration Activities*

- Moody Creek, South Fork Eel River Watershed - Sediment Reduction and Instream Habitat Enhancement
- Moody Creek Riparian Reforestation (redwood tree planting)
- Soldier Creek, Usal Creek Watershed - Sediment Reduction and Instream Habitat Enhancement
- Soldier Creek Riparian Reforestation (redwood tree planting)

### *Restoration Committee*

- Established goals and objectives for the Usal Redwood Forest Restoration Plan and created a Restoration Plan outline.
- Developed conceptual framework for a Standley Creek Watershed Restoration Plan including planning for a paired watershed assessment on the effect of hillslope fuel reduction work on streamflow.

## COMMUNITY

### *2019 Annual Meeting*

The 2019 Annual Meeting was held at the Parker Ten Mile Ranch, north of Fort Bragg, CA on September 7, 2019. There were 150 community members in attendance; this included regional residents along with others who traveled from Oregon, Washington and Nevada . Chief Forester Linwood Gill led a forest tour pointing out various types of silviculture. The Annual Meeting included opportunities for public dialogue and input on the biochar project, restoration activities, and harvesting activities for the year. Dr. Jerry

Franklin, “Father of Conservation Forestry” was the guest speaker. Outstanding Volunteer Awards were presented to two dedicated volunteers.

### *Community Governance*

Community involvement is integral to RFFI’s existence and operation. It is reflected in our governance by an eleven-member Board of Directors and an advisory group composed of regional representatives. In 2019, members of the Redwood Forest Council (RFC), RFFI’s 25-member community advisory group, held monthly meetings and attended RFFI Board meetings, Annual Meeting, forest tours, THP Tours and other events. RFC members provided input on strategic planning, organizational development, hiring, forest management planning, timber harvest plans and restoration projects.

### *Volunteer Program*

URFC and RFFI 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. RFFI added 23 new volunteers in 2019 - about half local and the others from the rest of California and beyond. We generally have about 150 active volunteers, both local residents and from beyond, who volunteer personally or virtually to support our work. This takes the form of helping at the community events described below, invasive species removal, serving as photographers or advisors on our forest practices.

### *Usal Lost Coast Hopper*

In the fall of 2019, RFFI partnered with Grasshopper Adventure Series to offer a one-day mountain bike event for 150 riders from the Bay Area for the second year. In addition to the ride, RFFI staff and volunteers shared the story of the organization at an evening talk and a morning walking tour of restoration projects. This successful event is planned for future years.

### *Community Events*

- California Roots Music and Arts Festival: In 2019, CaliRoots Music Festival in Monterey chose RFFI to be a partner for their Redwood VIP tickets by donating to the Plant a Redwood Program to have 2400 redwoods planted in our Usal Redwood Forest. RFFI volunteers tabled at the 3-day event and spread information at the festival about the organization.
- Otis Johnson invasive removal with Anchor Academy High School: URFC Staff partnered with Jughandle Farm to conduct an invasive plant removal and native tree planting day with 50 students from Anchor Academy High School in June 2019.

### *Oral History Project*

In August 2019, four oral history videos were completed and uploaded to the Redwood Forest Foundation website, featuring over four hours of in-depth interviews with founding members of the organization. This project was made possible through generous support from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County & the Charles F. Flinn and Walker B. Tilley Fund for Sustainable Forestry.

### *Ice on Fire*

- In June 2017, URFC’s work was filmed by Tree Media, LLC for “Ice on Fire” a Leonardo DiCaprio HBO documentary on climate disruption. The URFC carbon project, sustainable forest

management, reforestation program and biochar production and planning were featured in the final film. URFC was selected as a subject because of these factors as well as for its hallmark inclusion of Native American practices and participation and the regional community in forest management. In June 2019, the film was released on HBO and RFFI and URFC staff were invited to participate in multiple screenings and panel discussions throughout California and in Colorado.