

2019

Conservation Easement Monitoring Report

**For: Usal Redwood
Forest Conservation
Easement**

10/14/2019

Usal Forest Monitoring
2019

Usal Forest Conservation Easement Monitoring Inspection Report

Prepared by

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

DATE OF MONITORING: October 14, 2019

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 14, 2019.
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 Forest Manager and I 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

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

ADDRESS AND PHONE: Cal Fire/ Northern Operations Center
6105 Airport Road
Redding CA, 96002
(530) 226-8940

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.

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	Y	N	Currently active forest management on approved THP's: Usal Beach and McCoy THP's.
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	Y	N	Inspected road abandonment/de-commissioning (1.5 miles adjacent to Soldier Creek utilizing Fisheries Restoration Grant Program) in partnership with Trout Unlimited and Pacific Watershed Association.
Observation of conformance of Forest Certification Requirements SC 4 ¶ 2	Y	N	
Roads	Observed	Concern	

Observation of road maintenance new road construction or reconstruction, or decommissioned roads- must meet CTM Manual standards & Weaver and Hagans "Farm and Ranch Roads" manual SC 5 ¶2 SC 6 ¶13	Y	N	Inspected road de-commissioning /abandonment for approximately 1.5 miles.
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	None observed

General	Observed	Concern	
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	N	N	None observed
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	N	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 2019 monitoring inspection:

- During Usal Forest's annual FSC review, the forest was issued 2 minor CARS related to Management Plan updates related to the herbicide use moratorium, as well as identifying/listing of contractors. These modifications/updates to the management plan are being worked on by RFFI staff.
- Usal/RFFI is considering pursuing additional grant funding through FRGP (Fisheries Restoration Grant Program) provided by the Department of Fish and wildlife with the assistance of Trout Unlimited, to remove/abandon existing 2.5 miles of legacy roads, old watercourse crossings and replacing shot-gunned culverts within the property (near Usal Creek).
- A second storage container was installed on the WRP main road landing next to an existing storage container to facilitate forest management activities and equipment storage.

Annual Monitoring Report Verification

DATE: 10/14/2019

Inspector: Brook Darley

* Updated 3/3/2020



☐ 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 13th Street, Suite 103, Sacramento CA 95811. Chad Fien

Linwood Gill, URFC Chief Forester



Figure 2 – McCoy THP – Post Harvest







Usal Redwood Forest - 2018, 2019 Project Areas

