

**2020**

# Conservation Easement Monitoring Report



**For: Usal Redwood  
Forest Conservation  
Easement**

Usal Forest Monitoring  
2020

9/2/2020

## **Usal Forest Conservation Easement Monitoring Inspection Report**

Prepared by:

Al Klem, RPF #2546, Forest Assistance Specialist, Cal Fire

Reviewed by:

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

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

Current Land Owner: Redwood Forest Foundation Inc. (RFFI) dba Usal .  
Redwood Forest Company, LLC

Conservation Easement Holder: Cal Fire

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.

Date of Monitoring Inspection: September 2, 2020

Narration: The inspection began by meeting Chief Forester, Linwood Gill and Forest Conservation Specialist, Karen Youngblood at the RFFI office in Fort Bragg. We reviewed maps and discussed our plans for the day before leaving for the field. Karen Youngblood did not attend the field inspection but it was a good opportunity to meet and we left the office at about 0815.

Method of Inspection: Ground

Time spent on the property: 8 hours

List of all persons attending the inspection (landowner & others):

- Linwood Gill – URFC Chief Forester
- Brook Darley, Cal Fire, Forest Legacy Program Manager
- Al Klem, Cal Fire, Forestry Assistance Specialist

Monitor's Name: Brook Darley, Cal Fire, RPF #2499  
Al Klem, Cal Fire, RPF #2546

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.

<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 approved Pokemon THP.</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 (1.5 miles adjacent to Soldier Creek utilizing Fisheries Restoration Grant Program) in partnership with Trout Unlimited and Pacific Watershed Association.</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 Hagans "Farm and Ranch Roads" manual SC 5 ¶2 SC 6 ¶13	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Inspected road de-commissioning /abandonment for approximately 1.5 miles.</b>
Observation of rock extraction SC 5 ¶3	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>No new rock pits have been developed since the last monitoring inspection.</b>
Observation of significant landslides or debris torrents SC 6 ¶11	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>None</b>

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



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	Y	N	Observed roadside mastication of Scotch broom and Portuguese broom. The work was done on the M&M road in the spring of 2020 and the Portuguese broom is already resprouting.
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:

- Three helipads on the property that were converted and expanded from existing log landings. Usal Redwood Forest is in a relatively remote location so these helipads are an important safety feature on the property to quickly extract those in need of immediate medical attention.
- Hunting lease expired in December of 2019 and Usal Redwood Forest is working on another agreement. Chief Forester, Linwood Gill has pointed out that less than twenty percent of the property is conducive to hunting.
- Usal Redwood Forest has changed security companies to Backroad Security. What has been appealing to Usal is the patrolmen's background and experience in firefighting and law enforcement, as well as their knowledge of forest roads and general understanding of erosion control maintenance and repair.
- The summer of 2020 has been a record setting year for wildfires in California and although Usal Redwood Forest is on the coast of Mendocino County some areas of the redwood region from Monterey County northward have experienced wildfire this year. The cause of these fires was a dry lightning event in mid-August followed by a significant northeast wind event in early September. If anything, this year is a reminder that extreme fire weather events do occur in the redwood region and although catastrophic wildfire in the coastal forestlands may be rare they are by no means unprecedented.



## **Annual Monitoring Report Verification**

DATE: 9/11/2020

Inspector: Brook Darley  
Al Klem

\_\_\_ 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 – Roadside mastication of Scotch broom along M&M Road. Completed spring of 2020.**



**Figure 2 – Roadside mastication of Portuguese broom along M&M Road. Completed spring of 2020 and already resprouting.**

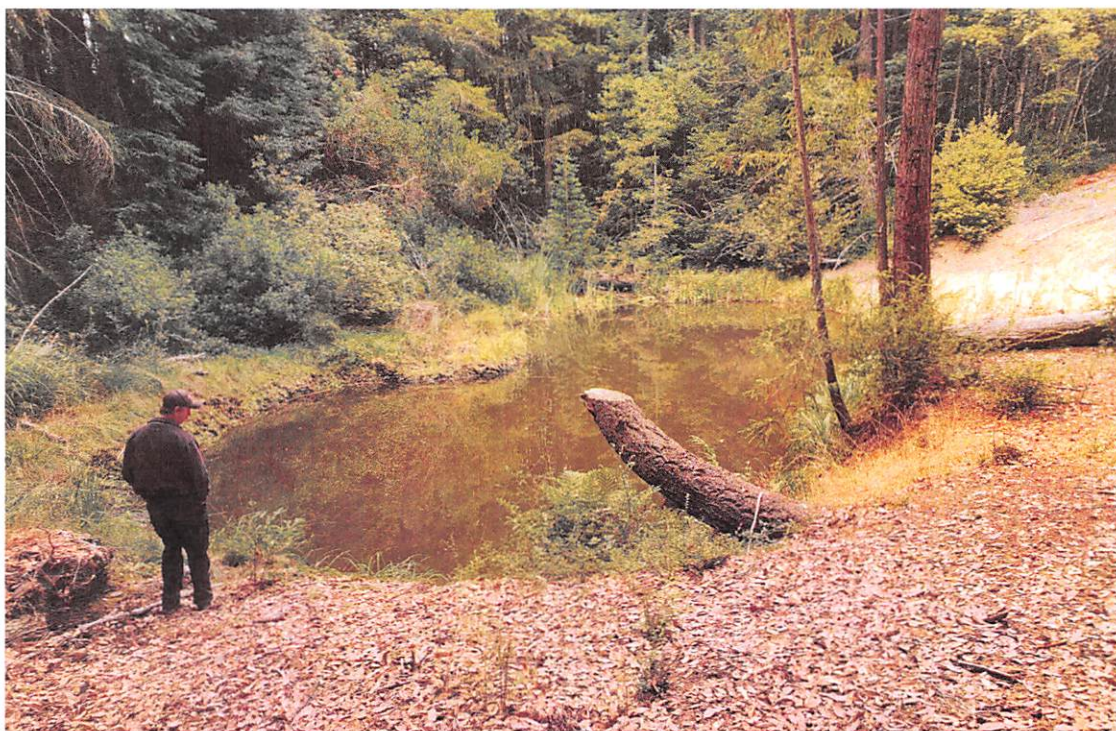




**Figure 3 – Newly constructed helipad on property. Important safety feature on property allows for the quick extraction of those in immediate medical need in an otherwise remote area.**



**Figure 4 – Spring fed waterhole on the property that is available for water tenders to draft from for dust abatement and fire suppression activities.**





**Figure 5 – Pre-commercial thinning (PCT) area that was thinned in the spring of 2020. Notice the pruning that was done within a 100 feet roadside buffer.**



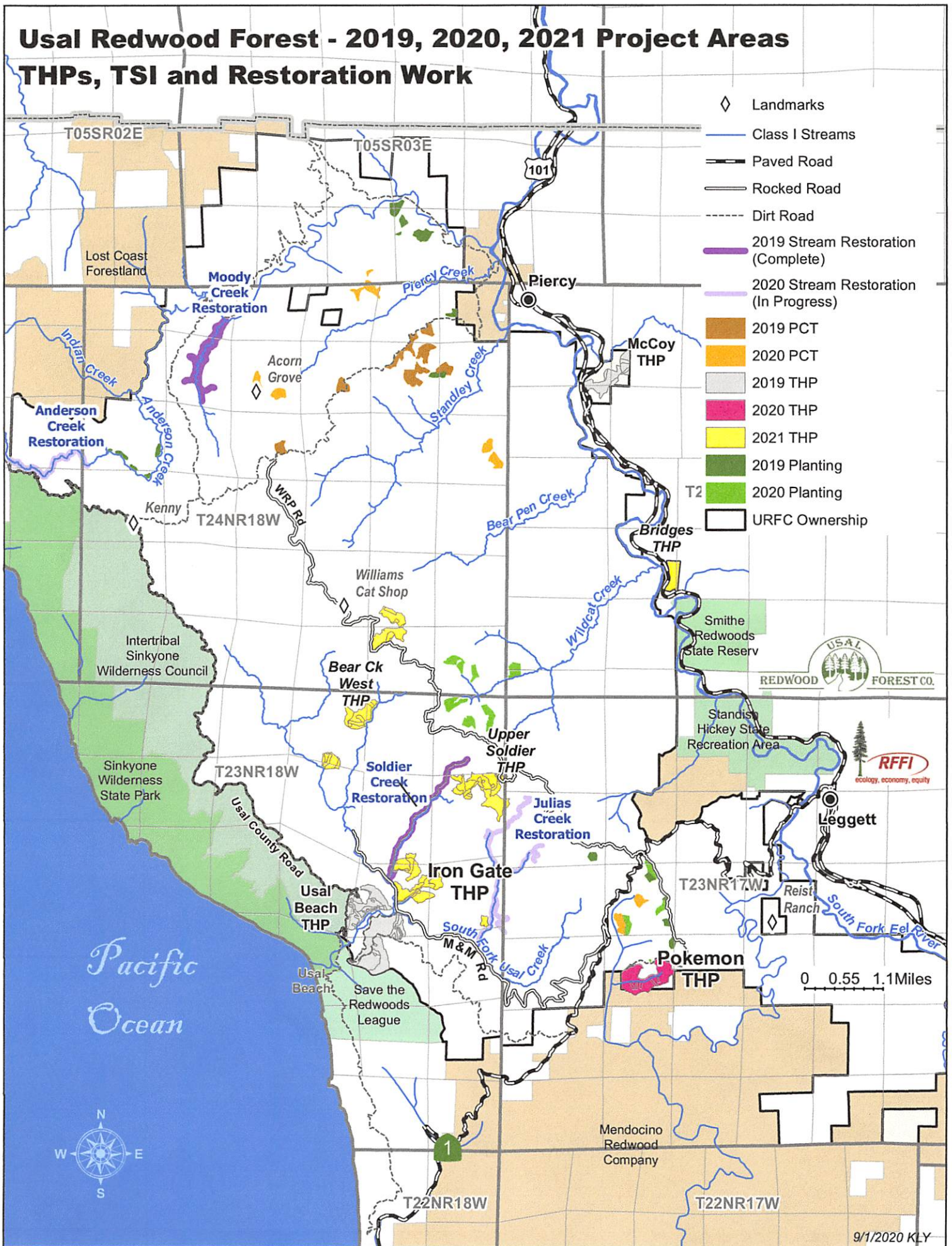
**Figure 6 – In contrast to the PCT area the photo shows an untreated area a short distance down the road from the above photo location. Extremely dense vegetation.**





# Usal Redwood Forest - 2019, 2020, 2021 Project Areas

## THPs, TSI and Restoration Work





# Usal Redwood Forest - 2020 Road Maintenance, Invasive Plant Management and Restoration Work

