

Forest Management – Strategic Plan

Forest Management Next Steps (from May 12, 2010 planning workshop)

- Staff will make recommendations for Waddle Ranch budget amounts for the coming fiscal year that will be required to maintain the same level of treatment activity that was performed during 2009.
- Next year's forest treatment will include leaving brush stands as wildlife habitat zones, and pinpointing areas requiring special treatment for water quality or other specific forest management goals (integrating Cal-Fire's recommendations).
- Adopt or revise the proposal objective and strategy.

Proposed Objective

For District-owned forest lands, our primary objective is to improve forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic fires while preserving wildlife habitat, protecting cultural resources and maintaining water quality. Our forest management plans and practices will honor the terms of any conservation easements we have agreed to, and will be in compliance with relevant governmental regulations (primarily California Forest Practices Act / Cal-Fire, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the governing Air Quality Management District).

Proposed Strategy

We will restore our forest ecosystem to a level of health and stand density so that prescribed burning and other less-intrusive forest management tools will preclude the need to use heavy equipment for future maintenance. The forest will be managed with a goal of establishing a variety of age-classes and replicating a more natural variety of stand densities. We will take care to identify areas which require special treatment to mitigate previous water quality impacts and areas which are sensitive archeological sites.

Forest lands requiring management:

- Waddle Ranch
- 18 acres
- Sloped North 40 behind bus barn

Proposed Key initiatives

Active multi-year initiatives

- Ongoing evaluation of forest health and fire danger

Active initiatives

- Access road rehabilitation
- 60 acres continuation of prescribed thinning and fuels reduction treatment (completion of 2010 maintenance)

Potential key initiatives

- Evaluation of Waddle Ranch management costs and lessons learned for planning potential open space acquisitions

May 12, 2010 Discussion notes on forest management

- Long term mgmt. plan/conservation easement
- Forest restoration to sustainable old growth
- Condition
- Maintain a healthy sustainable forest
- Forest Practice rules (MTNP or Timber Harvest Plan) would not apply to us, although we may still use these as guidelines
- Archeology regulations that would apply?
- How highly modified is our Waddle Ranch easement (what's above and beyond traditional easement requirements?)
- What would we want it to be and what is practical for us? Fire and fuel mgmt. (safety), water quality, wildlife → what's the vision for 20 yrs. Most important thing to us.
- In compliance with regulatory rules:
 - AQMD
 - Lahontan water quality board
 - Ca forest practices/Cal Fire
- Get the fuel levels to the point that prevention fire will handle the management
 - Self sustaining
- Even-aged stands
- Un-even-aged stands
- Our vision:
 - Water quality
 - View
 - Recreation areas
 - Minimize fire danger
 - Wildlife

- Can we move product to help us subsidize our goals (forest mgmt)? Ex: prior removal/moving of wood chips? Logging operations.
- Mitigate legacy practices
- Long term stand density
- Active Timber Harvest Plan
- On top of emerging fire science practices, in a means of a cost effective ways of achieving our goals
- Where do we want to go...budgeting for next year
- Truckee River Water Shed Council may have practices to benchmark