

2019 Monitoring Report for High Conservation Value Forests

Monitoring of the effectiveness of measures to maintain or enhance High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) occurred as described under Section 5, 6 and 7 of the Forest Management Plan. As a result, the HCVFs are monitored throughout the year. A summary of the process follows:

Every THP that is submitted has a Request for Resource Input (RRI). Therefore, every THP is reviewed by the Conservation Planning Department to identify presence of any rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) species, presence of habitat for those species, and presence of HCVF in or near the project area (defined by the Cumulative Impacts Assessment Area in the timber harvest plan).

The presence of HCVFs is also assessed by the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) during the initial stages of plan development before and after the RRI is sent to CPD personnel. So, there are two initial checks in the system for identifying HCVFs around areas of proposed harvest activity. When an HCVF is identified, the measures outlined in the Forest Management Plan (Section 6.8) are applied for each individual type of HCVF. Those measures may be incorporated into the THP or excluded from operational areas. If the measures are part of the THP, CalFire will enforce the THP and any potential errors in operation under the permit could result in a violation from CalFire. CalFire personnel actively inspect THPs on a regular basis. Also, management activities conducted near (generally within 0.25 miles) any of the murrelet occupied old growth stands would occur through consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that is also enforced under the THP process.

Additionally, some HCVFs are monitored and reported within the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) reporting. The Northern Spotted Owl HCP requires annual reporting and the Aquatic HCP requires biennial reporting. In addition, the Forest Resources Information System (FRIS) annually depletes the forest inventory and updates harvested areas using post-harvest aerial photography. Activity in a HCVF would be identified through this process. Monitoring of HCVF areas and acres is also conducted during the annual reporting process for Forest Stewardship Council® certification.

During routine assessment in 2019, Green Diamond's botany group identified a unique tan oak stand in our Smith River tract. This ridgetop forest consisted of mature tanoak with solitary large diameter Douglas fir and redwood. Interestingly, there were no stumps observed at the site and no indication of previous timber harvest activity. Subsequent historic air photo review indicated that the ridgeline was never logged during the initial entry in the 1950s. While tan oak is not an unusual species in this tract, contiguous tan oak dominated forests are uncommon. While the overall stand history is unknown it clearly predates the first timber harvest entries. Green Diamond recognizes the importance of naturally occurring tanoak forests and is adding the 80 acre stand to its tan oak HCVF for protection.

In 2019, approximately 210 acres of HCVF oak woodland and adjacent HCVF grasslands were maintained and enhanced through the manual removal of small diameter encroaching conifers as part to Green Diamond's Private Land Management (PLM) Program. To maintain true oaks, we are also applying newly

created Forest Practice Rules that allow the removal of conifers from true oak stands without the requirement to restock the harvested area. In 2019, approximately 27 acres of oak woodland special treatment zone (STZ) were put under harvest plan and 4 acres were completed. Under-represented successional stages were maintained or enhanced as outlined in the Forest Management Plan (Section 6).

In 2015, the California Department of General Services (DGS) and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) approached Green Diamond Resource Co asking permission to investigate potential telecommunication tower sites on the property to replace the existing tower located on US Forest Service lands on Red Mountain in the Klamath area which is planned to be decommissioned by 2021. These telecommunication towers hold all emergency service communications for the area and link to the state-wide system for state and federal agencies. After thorough analysis a site was chosen on GDRCo property on Rattlesnake Ridge which is located in a HCVF and also in a designated Humboldt marten reserve area within the Safe Harbor Agreement between GDRCo and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). DGS completed an Environmental Impact Report in 2018 and negotiated with DFW and Calfire in order to comply with all environmental laws, regulations and GDRCo agreements with State and Federal agencies in order to construct 1.2 miles of road and a two acre site for the telecommunications tower. GDRCo was a willing participant through this process as an alternative to the likely use of eminent domain by the State given the threat to emergency communications and lack of any other potential site to replace the existing tower. Presently, the site clearing and road are complete and construction of the towers expected in 2021 through 2022. Our AHCP Roads Supervisor Jeremy Wright is acting as the liaison to DGS and OES.