

RESOURCES FOR HUMBOLDT COUNTY FOREST LANDOWNERS

June 2020

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This cursory overview highlights several key organizations and groups that assist or regulate management activities on forested properties. This information applies to anyone with trees on their property and is not limited to TPZ (or timber production zone) owners. Do note that this guide is not comprehensive, and your own experience may lead you to recommend others.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

*One important resource to review is the 24-chapter guide for forest landowners in California, called the “**Forest Stewardship Series**”. This series has been developed to provide a comprehensive source of information pertinent to the management and enjoyment of your lands. The information is designed to help you formulate and implement strategies for achieving your personal goals as a landowner. The publications in the series do not tell you what to do but instead help you learn more about your forest and your many management options, and give you some of the tools necessary to define and achieve your goals. It can be found at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8323.pdf>*

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (UCCE)

UCCE is dedicated to creating, developing and delivering knowledge and practical information in agriculture, natural and human resources to improve the quality of life of Californians. The office has a registered professional forester (RPF) on staff known as the Forest Advisor that can help answer your questions with no charge. Additionally, there are regular workshops, classes and field tours to help you further your education and planning for your property. <http://cehumboldt.ucdavis.edu>

Humboldt County Office: 707-445-7351

Del Norte County Office: 707-464-4711

FORESTLAND STEWARD NEWSLETTER

This quarterly publication for forest landowners covers current topics of interest and provides technical information that will help landowners become better stewards of their forestland. There is no charge. See <https://placerrcd.org/sample-page-2/forestland-steward-newsletters/> to review past issues and to sign up for the publication. Follow Forest Stewardship Newsletter on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ForestlandStewardNews/>

COST-SHARE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

CAL FIRE, FORESTRY ASSISTANCE SPECIALISTS

Aside from performing regulatory functions, CAL FIRE has Forestry Assistance Specialists that help landowners with technical, financial, and educational assistance. These foresters administer the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), which is a cost share program to help landowners with forest management planning, reforestation, site preparation, thinning, and wildlife habitat improvement projects.

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/resource-protection-improvement/landowner-assistance/forest-stewardship/technical-and-financial-assistance/>

CALFIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist, Humboldt & Del Norte Counties: 530-226-8941

Humboldt-Del Norte CALFIRE Unit, Resource Management Office: 707-726-1253

CA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, FISHERIES RESTORATION GRANTS PROGRAM

The Department of Fish and Game has a grant program that is designed to improve or restore salmon and steelhead populations. These grants fund watershed planning,

habitat restoration, sediment source reduction efforts and habitat improvements projects. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Grants/FRGP>

Northern Region, Senior Environmental Scientist: 707-725-1072

FIRE ADAPTED LANDSCAPES AND SAFE HOMES PROGRAM (FLASH)

The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council administers the Fire Adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes Program (FLASH), a cost share program designed to assist property owners with the job of reducing their risk to wildfire by thinning flammable vegetation around their homes and along key access routes. The program focuses on high wildfire hazard areas in Humboldt and will reimburse property owners on a per acre basis.

<https://humboldt.gov/690/Fire-Adapted-Landscapes-Safe-Homes>

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

NRCS is a federal agency that can provide technical assistance for addressing range and forestland resource concerns. The agency also offers cost-share programs, like Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), to develop forestry plans and to complete projects that help address resource concerns, such as sediment control, thinning and invasive species management. www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov

Eureka Service Center: 707-442-6058

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Act authorizes the Secretary of Interior through the US Fish and Wildlife Service, to provide direct technical and financial assistance to private landowners interested in restoring, enhancing, and managing fish and wildlife habitats on their own lands.

<https://www.fws.gov/cno/conservation/Partners.html>

Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office: 707-822-7201

CONSULTANTS

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS (RPF)

A registered professional forester (RPF) is a person licensed by the State of California to perform professional services that require the application of forestry principles and techniques to the management of forested landscapes. RPFs have an understanding of forest growth, development, and regeneration; soils, geology, and hydrology; wildlife

and fisheries biology and other forest resources. RPFs are also trained in fire management and, if involved in timber harvesting operations, have expertise in both forest road design and application of the various methods used to harvest timber.

To harvest timber on your property, a RPF must prepare a timber harvest plan (or appropriate permit) and a licensed timber operator (LTO, see below) must do the on-the-ground operations, including logging road construction. You may also want to consult with an RPF regarding tree planting, rehabilitation work after a fire or other activities. Choose an RPF as you would any professional- with great care. You want one who will look out for your financial and environmental interest and who can explain the complex rules and regulations to you. There are many consulting RPFs in Humboldt County and many ways to find one for your project:

- You can review contacts in the phone book under “foresters-consulting”;
- You can contact the local CAL FIRE office and ask for a list of RPFs in our area: 707-726-1253;
- You can access a state-wide list of consulting RPFs at <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/professional-foresters-registration/rpfcrm-rosters/>
- You can review the California Licensed Foresters Association website at www.clfa.org or the Association of Consulting Foresters website at <https://www.acf-foresters.org/acfweb>
- And, most importantly, you can talk to landowners and ask for their recommendations.

LICENSED TIMBER OPERATORS (LTOs)

LTOs do the actual logging on a harvest plan. Your RPF (see above) can help you select the operator to perform the specific work on your property.

OTHER CONSULTANTS

It is likely that you will need to hire other professionals, besides an RPF or LTO, to accomplish your project goals. You may need the services of a wildlife biologist, botanist, geologist, archaeologist, surveyor, pesticide applicator, appraiser, land consultant experienced in conservation easements, estate planning attorney, tax consultant, etc. For simplicity, you may want to start with the recommendations from a RPF who can help guide you through the process of finding other consultants who are familiar with the needs of forest landowners to meet your project’s needs.

Recommendations from other landowners, the telephone book or an internet search can also be used to find these professionals.

REGULATORY AGENCY OFFICES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HUMBOLDT COUNTY PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENTS

Draft general plans, review development projects, evaluate lot line adjustments, administer County ordinances and zoning, and issue building and grading permits.

<https://humboldt.gov/156/Planning-Building>

Planning & Building Department: 707-445-7541

Building Inspection Division: 707-445-7245

HUMBOLDT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Ensures water quality for new wells and domestic water sources.

<https://humboldt.gov/564/Environmental-Health>

707-445-6215

HUMBOLDT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

Provides environmental protection through agricultural pest exclusion, detection, pesticide use enforcement and permitting, and support of USDA animal damage control program; protects consumers by inspecting/testing all commercial weighing devices and enforcing package label laws. <https://humboldt.gov/623/Agricultural-Commissioner>

707-441-5260

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (HCFSC)

Through the development and implementation of the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan (also known as the Humboldt County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan) they provide a framework for fire coordination, prevention, and protection throughout the county. The Council serves as a forum for community organizations and representatives to share fire-safety information, assess fire risk, set fire protection priorities, and develop policies for integration into the County General Plan. They can help provide access to funding for residential communities to become Firewise

Community sites, to reduce fuels, and to implement fire safe planning strategies.

<https://humboldt.gov.org/689/Fire-Safe-Council>

707-267-9542

STATE AGENCIES

AIR RESOURCES BOARD (ARB)

ARB delegates air pollution control to local air pollution districts, which enforce air pollution standards, including burn permits and agricultural waste concerns.

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/>

CALIFORNIA GEOLOGIC SURVEY (CGS)

CGS was formerly known as California Division of Mines and Geology. They have responsibility to evaluate seismic and slope stability issues, for home, road and timber harvesting projects. <http://www.consrv.ca.gov/CGS/>

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (DFW)



DFG is responsible for conserving the State's fish, wildlife and botanical resources. They regulate hunting, fishing, and land management activities affecting natural resources. Their jurisdiction includes timber harvest, and stream channel disturbance from construction, mining, water diversion, or impoundment projects. In addition, the Department offers a number of assistance programs for projects beneficial to fish and wildlife.

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/>

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)

CDFA promotes safety and trade for the State's agriculture through disease and pest management, noxious weed control, and pesticide regulation. The County Agriculture Commissioner (see above) is the local agent for the Department.

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/>

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)

CAL FIRE is responsible for fire protection and timber harvest regulation on the state's private lands. A CAL FIRE permit may be required when landowners plan to harvest timber or convert timberland to another use.

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/>

CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, Resource Management: 707-726-1253

DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION (DPR)

DPR has responsibility for licensing and certification of pesticide dealers, pest control advisors, and pest control businesses and applicators. The County Agriculture Commissioner (see above) issues pesticide applicators permits.

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/>

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

DWR manages the water resources for all of California's water needs through coordination of water allocation. <http://www.water.ca.gov/>

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SWRCB)

SWRCB has responsibility to protect the quality of the State's water resources and to allocate water rights. They oversee nine regional water quality control boards (RWQCBs), which develop basin plans, implement Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), issue waste discharge permits, enforce water quality standards and take regulator action against violators. <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/>

North Coast Region SWRCB: 707-576-2220

FEDERAL AGENCIES

NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS)

NMFS is responsible for the protection of endangered and threatened marine life, marine mammals, and the ecosystems upon which they depend, under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. For example, they have responsibility for the recovery of listed salmonid species at the federal level, but they are not substantively involved in the timber harvest permit process in California.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/>

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

USACE is responsible for activities that take place in streams or wetlands regulated by the Clean Water Act. <http://www.usace.army.mil/>

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS)

FWS is responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats under the Endangered Species Act. They are generally involved in the harvest permit implementation process for forest landowners when there are northern spotted owl issues for example. <http://www.fws.gov/>

USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

BLM manages 270 million acres of primarily non-forested public lands, mostly in the western United States. They can permit use of their land for uses such as grazing, mining or recreation. <http://www.blm.gov/>

USDA FARM SERVICES AGENCY (FSA)

FSA helps farmers conserve land and water resources, provides credit to disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and helps farmers recover from disasters. They work closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to administer these assistance programs. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

USDA FOREST SERVICE (USDA FS)

USDA FS manages 190 million acres of forested public lands. There are 17 National Forests in California. They offer some State and Private Forestry Assistance programs and can permit use of National Forest land for activities such as grazing, recreation or firewood harvesting. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/>

USDA NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

NRCS, formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service, provides technical assistance and financial assistance to private landowners, farmers and ranchers, as well as to groups and agencies. The agency works with these clients to develop and implement conservation plans and contracts to protect, conserve, and enhance natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals). They are also responsible for the soil survey. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ca/home/>

Eureka Service Center: (707) 442-6058

Soil surveys and maps are available online at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

USGS develops topographical maps of the Nation's land that can be purchased for your use. <http://www.usgs.gov/>

LANDOWNER ASSOCIATIONS

THE BUCKEYE

An organization of family farm, ranch, and forest landowners and resource managers in the North Coast Region of California dedicated to the promotion, communication and implementation of those ideals and policies that support the ecologic and economic sustainability of natural resources and open space in family ownership. They have workshops, meetings and field days for landowners to meet and share common goals, challenges and interests. <http://www.buckeyeconservancy.org> 707-725-8847

FOREST LANDOWNERS OF CALIFORNIA



An association that provides access to experienced members and professionals in the fields of forestry, fire protection, product marketing, ecosystem management, estate planning, accounting, law and education. They have regular meetings and field days on a wide range of topics of interest for California forest landowners. These meetings provide opportunities for family forest owners to meet and share common goals, challenges and interests.

<http://www.forestlandowners.org> 877-326-3778

OTHERS THAT WORK WITH FOREST LANDOWNERS

AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM

Landowners' timberlands can be certified by a tree farm inspector who will offer advice on forest management planning. Becoming a member provides a subscription to the Tree Farmer magazine among other educational and networking benefits.

<http://www.treefarmssystem.org/>

California Tree Farm Program: 530-472-1938

Local Tree Farm Inspector: Dan Cohoon, Able Forestry 707-445-4130

HUMBOLDT COUNTY PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION (HCPBA)

Founded in 2018, the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association is a group of landowners, volunteer fire departments, non-governmental organizations, and other community members who work together to implement prescribed burns on private lands in Humboldt County. People join the HCPBA to gain experience in prescribed fire, to support their friends and neighbors in putting good fire back on the landscape, and/or because they want to implement burns on their properties.

<https://www.facebook.com/hcpba/> 707-445-7351

HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (HCRCD)

HCRCD is a special district of the County of Humboldt. They assist private landowners and landowner groups in assessing resource concerns and in planning, designing and voluntarily implementing conservation measures and best management practices. The District's technical services, such as design and engineering, are provided through a cooperative partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as well as by technical staff hired by the district through grant funds for specific projects. The work of the HCRCD is funded by State, federal and local grants for specific projects. HCRCD also works with individual landowners and groups to identify and access funding for projects that improve and protect water quality and natural habitat on private lands. www.humboldtrcd.org (707) 442-6058 ext. 5

HUMBOLDT FARM BUREAU

The Farm Bureau is non-profit mutual benefit agricultural organization dedicated to promoting and preserving agriculture in Humboldt County. The Farm Bureau represent agricultural industries including dairy, timber, cattle, produce, oysters, wineries, and the floral producers. California Farm Bureau Federation members are provided with a network of support both on and off the farm. Members receive legislative updates, local news, educational tools and helpful discounts. They work together to provide solutions to mutual problems. <https://www.humboldtcountyfarmbureau.com/>

707-443-4844

MATTOLE RESTORATION COUNCIL (MRC)

MRC is an organization that focuses on restoration of the health of the Mattole Watershed. They work in a wide range of habitats: from in-stream habitat improvements, to fuels reduction projects, to invasive species management. They provide mapping, data management and planning and community outreach. <http://www.mattole.org> 707-629-3514

NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICES DIVISION OF REDWOOD COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY (RCAA)

RCAA helps to improve the health of communities and watersheds that those communities depend upon via the collaboration of partners, projects and landowners in watershed restoration and planning. <http://www.naturalresourceservices.org> (707) 269-2066

NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST (NRLT)



NRLT is dedicated to the protection and economic viability of working landscapes, farms, forests, and grazing lands, and to the preservation and protection of land for its natural, educational, scenic and historic values. They assist landowners on a voluntary basis through consultation, conservation easements, restoration management, and promoting a healthy and productive resource base. www.ncrlt.org 707-822-2242

PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

A land trust that is focused on raising awareness of the threats to America's private working forests and by directly conserving critical forestlands in partnership with landowners and communities in California, Oregon and Washington. They assist in sustaining forests by employing state-of-the-art forest stewardship practices on a projects managed in the Pacific West. They work with landowners

and the public to develop and promote new forest eco-services markets.

<http://www.pacificforest.org> 415-561-0700

SANCTUARY FOREST

A land trust located within the headwaters of the Mattole River. They provide permanent protection for ecologically sensitive lands, enriching the positive relationship between these lands and communities. Their conservation efforts include the protection of old growth Douglas-fir, ancient redwood groves, wildlife corridors and other precious habitats. They are actively involved in promoting responsible water management and

storage to promote improved streamflows in the Mattole watershed and surrounding regions. <http://www.sanctuaryforest.org> 707-986-108

SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE

The Save the Redwoods League is dedicated the protection and restoration of California's redwoods forests. They purchase, restore, and make redwoods forests available for public enjoyment. <https://www.savetheredwoods.org/>

(888) 836-0005