

Soquel Demonstration State Forest General Forest Management Plan Update January 31, 2013:

August 2011 – The SDSF Advisory Committee Reconvened to review the Draft Update of the GFMP

Members of the Advisory Committee when it reconvened:

Patty Ciesla	Stewards of Soquel Forest, Vice Chairperson
Tim Hyland or Chris Spohrer	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Patricia Marland	SDSF Neighbor, Committee Secretary
Steve Butler	Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
Eric Huff	Board of Forestry Representative
Terris Kasteen	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Larry Serpa	The Nature Conservancy
Donna Bradford*	Santa Cruz County Planning Department
Steve Staub*	RPF, Chairperson
Thomas Sutfin*	Ex-Officio Member

*Since August 2011 Donna Bradford retired and Santa Cruz County has designated Jennifer Michelsen as their representative.

Also, as you know Steve Staub passed away in November 2012. CAL FIRE will appoint a new RPF member of the Committee and then the Committee needs to determine who will be the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

In 2012 the Committee voted to include Thomas Sutfin as an Ex-Officio member of the Advisory Committee.

October 2011 – Angela Bernheisel began as the new Forest Manager for SDSF. The first day on the job was the October Advisory Committee Meeting.

Advisory Committee Meetings were held:

October 3, 2011

November 7, 2011

At these meetings the Committee discussed the overall approach to incorporating Committee input, received reports from Bernheisel and Sutfin about the past plans and accomplishments and future direction and priorities. The Committee determined that they would review and provide input on the GFMP in parts. Some of the structural elements of the GFMP were discussed such as the order of the chapters and the presentation of the goals. Rather than “word-smith” the document as a group we decided that the Committee members would provide written comments and that input would be summarized, responded to and incorporated into the GFMP as CAL FIRE determined. Comments were received in different stages as the Committee members were able to review the Draft GFMP and provide input. Deadlines were extended to accommodate each member as requested. All comments were summarized that were received by the end of December 2011 in a “Summary of Comments”.

April 2, 2012

Revisions to the GFMP were undertaken by Angela Bernheisel and Jill Butler. Shawn Headley also assisted with drafting many new maps. At the April meeting the Advisory Committee was presented with the revised GFMP through chapter 7 (of the 14 total chapters in the GFMP). It was agreed that the Committee would then have all comments on the remainder of the GFMP to CAL FIRE by May 4th. This deadline was extended by request to June and some feedback was received from the Committee and the public by the June deadline. Changes in the Committee membership have transpired and no new

meeting has been scheduled. The plan is to reconvene the Advisory Committee once all the revisions to the entire plan have been completed and distributed for review.

The Timber Chapter will take a lot of time because of significant comments from the Advisory Committee and changes they would like to see. The Fisheries Chapter that was presented in April has received a lot of comments from fisheries biologist Don Alley that need to be responded to with some assistance from a CAL FIRE biologist. So although we have received a lot of good input on the plan there is significant work to do to respond to comments and new information and to incorporate all of this prior to re-distributing. This work should be possible to start up again after the new Comstock Mill THP and contract have been completed this spring. Since June 2012, when the GFMP Update was put on hold other priorities have taken precedence with the limited staff including:

- Fern Gulch THP operations (entire 2.5 MMBF completed in 2012)
 - Public Tours with one tour including the Advisory Committee
 - Newly discovered archaeological sites
- Completion of the remainder of the Rim THP
- Preparation of the Comstock Mill THP for 2013 with assistance from Scott Bullock
- LWD Project contracting, grant coordination and implementation of Site 1
- LWD Contracting for 2013
- Coordination and SDSF assistance with research projects;
 - Washington State University - Madrone Planation Study
 - University of North Texas – Atmospheric Deposition through rainwater
 - North American Field Herping Association – Herpetology Surveys
 - UC Davis – Blood borne pathogens in small mammals and herpetofauna
 - UC Santa Cruz – Santa Cruz Mountains Puma Project
 - Washington State University – Bay laurel biological control study
 - UC Berkeley – Ongoing SOD research
 - Hydrologist Brook Kraeger on-going stream gauge and rain gauge maintenance and data collection
 - Stream temperature data logger annual reports and NOAA fisheries electro-fishing data reports by SDSF
- Troubleshooting and set up of weather station
- Oakland Museum – Harvest of redwood bark for museum exhibit
- Numerous permits for fuelwood harvesting, mushroom gathering, and mountain biking product testing
- Neighbor issues related to illegal activities, complaints, requests for access, accidents
- Law enforcement activities related to illegal parties, trespass, vandalism, dumping and theft
- Updated all the SDSF signs, installed 2 new gates, re-decked 1 bridge, upgraded several sections of road with improved drainage and rocking
- Coordinated surveying of northern and western property lines with tech services
- Search and Rescue Dog Groups orientation for conducting training at SDSF
- Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz – Enduro bike race and new trail to be sponsored through a grant
- Meetings with DFG regarding potential hunting opportunities at SDSF
- Installation and maintenance of new trail counters to estimate forest user numbers
- Coordinating and leading trail work with volunteers

- Numerous Ben Lomond Crew projects involving erosion control maintenance, eradication of invasive plants and maintenance of fire defense
- Duties related to the Unit Management Team
- Emergency response on SDSF for injuries, lost people and pets and other law enforcement issues
- And of course training, wildfire assignments and other committee work