

MINUTES  
SOQUEL DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST (SDSF)  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
September 17, 2013

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Terris Kasteen	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Patricia Marland	Neighborhood Representative
Larry Serpa	The Nature Conservancy
Matt Johnston	Santa Cruz County
Patty Ciesla	Stewards of Soquel Forest
Geoffrey Holmes	Registered Professional Forester
Steven Butler	Resource Conservation District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED ABSENT

Matt Dias	State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Geoffrey Holmes	Local Registered Professional Forester

GUESTS

Thomas Sutfin	Retired SDSF Forest Manager
Drew Perkins	Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz

STAFF

Angela Bernheisel	CAL FIRE Forest Manager of SDSF
Jill Butler	CAL FIRE Region Forester II
Helge Eng	CAL FIRE State Forest Program Manager
Scott Jalbert	CAL FIRE San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit Chief
Anna Cameron	CAL FIRE Office Technician SDSF

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Patty Ciesla, Chairperson of the SDSF Advisory Committee. The minutes of the SDSF Advisory Committee meeting held on June 18, 2013 were approved. Each person present introduced themselves.

Angela Bernheisel reviewed the GFMP updates. The big changes were in the Fisheries chapter. Consultant Jim Robins was hired to recommend the revisions in the Fisheries chapter. The Committee's Summary of Comments are in process. Angela suggested that the track changes copy be maintained as administration copies and be posted on the website. Committee comments are still needed on chapters 6, 11, 12, 13 and 14. Angela would like input concerning color maps compared with black and white maps. The parcel map on page 24 is in the process of being surveyed and the parcel actually does come to a point which is not consistent with the Santa Cruz County Assessor's parcel map. Patty Ciesla suggested that the Desirable Acquisition Area on map page 24 be fuzzy as it isn't a defined parcel. Angela said that the house on the recent State Forest Acquisition Parcels will eventually be demolished and is now going through a process to determine mitigations for hazardous material (asbestos) within the house. Angela would like to have the Committee's comments on Chapters 6 and 11-14 by October 1. October 29 is scheduled for a Field trip to the forest and SDSF Plan update.

The Committee took a short break.

Angela updated the Committee on Forest Projects. SDSF Forestry Aides are going to give presentations in classrooms at Soquel High School and will instruct students at the annual Forestry Challenge. Washington State University is conducting a Bay Laurel Study on SDSF. Its purpose is to inhibit sprouting of bay trees to reduce Sudden Oak Death. Herbicides or pathogens are used that kill the bay tree sprouts. The weather station is now operational and data is available for researchers. The Large Woody Debris Project is in process. Contractor Bob Pinkard has completed one of the three sites and is working on site 4 this week. The Forestry Aides have been doing photo monitoring, assisting with biological monitoring and habitat typing.

Patty Ciesla and Drew Perkins described the proposed Flow Trail and their classes for trail work crew leaders. They expect to train 40 people to lead trail building crews.

Angela described the Special Use Permit issued to West Valley College Parks Management Class. Twelve overnight campers will learn outdoor survival and primitive camping in this outdoor skills class. Angela said the Comstock THP review process is close to the second review and approval is expected in the next week. The Forestry Aides are working on weekends including patrols of the parking lot. The stream bank repair construction has been approved with a cost of \$216,000 and Monte West Contractor will begin the road repairs next year which entails excavation of the entire road.

Thomas Sutfin reported that the Mountain Elementary School enjoyed their field trip to the Forest.

Scotty Jalbert, CAL FIRE Unit Chief, introduced himself. His office is in Felton.

Helge Eng introduced himself. He is the Program Manager for the eight state forests. Helge said the budget for SDSF is \$400,000 to \$500,000 per year plus research projects. The Large Woody Debris project costs \$220,000. Helge was pleased to inform the Committee that the Fern Gulch and Rim Timber Harvests have allowed the SDSF to be self-sustaining for the last two years. Helge also said the transfer of title to the Forest is moving forward and possibly by the end of the year the title will be clear. Helge is pursuing FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Certification in Jackson State and Boggs Mountain Forests. He doesn't feel SDSF needs this certification as it may affect research projects. The initial cost of this certification is \$30,000 per forest plus an unknown amount for continued certification.

The Committee will please submit their comments to Angela by October 1, 2013. October 29, 2013 is the next scheduled meeting. Patty Ciesla adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Marland  
Secretary, SDSF Advisory Committee