

## **State of the Forest Report - by Gerri Finn**

Spring 2011

**Administration:** BMDSF Staff: Gerri Finn, Forest Manager; Joe Mathews, Forestry Aide. Seasonal Aid, Joe Mathews, began this year's work on March 9. User fees will likely be in place for camping on the state forest beginning the new fiscal year. The fee has not been set in stone, but the proposed fee for Boggs is \$10.00 per night. Each State Forest will determine a fee for each individual campground.

**Forest Management:** This year Fish and Game and US Fish and Wildlife Service have new survey protocol for the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO). The survey visits to calling points will be doubled from this year on. Boggs will have 6 visits to each calling point. NSO surveying will be the focus of the staff's workload for the spring season which means we will have odd hours of operation on the state forest.

Storm damage evaluation is continuing as access to areas becomes available. Many parties are pitching in to remove trees across trails and roads: forest staff, Konocti crews, Helitack crew, Bike Monkey Mountain Bikers and, of course, the always reliable Friends of Boggs Mountain. Thanks go out to FOBM for conducting trail maintenance even when the weather is adverse! Storm damaged conifer trees will be evaluated for harvest depending on the potential for insect infestation in these trees. Damaged conifers are susceptible to attack from bark beetles. The increased beetle activity increases the populations of the beetles which can become epidemic. A healthy forest can prevent excessive mortality from beetles, although, conifer forests will always have some beetle activity in them.

No timber harvesting is planned for this year. It is possible that a small "Class I" harvest could happen but not very likely. Joe and I will be preparing a timber harvest plan (THP) this summer and it is too early to tell when the harvest will occur but we are hoping it will be 2012.

This year, our forest-wide inventory is to take place. After owl calling and before timber harvest plan preparation, we will be measuring trees on our CFI (Continuous Forest Inventory) plots. There are 114 plots on a grid throughout the forest. These plots are measured every five years. The measurements include tree height, diameter, tree crown ratio, visible damage - including insect and disease infestation, mortality and new growth. The plot also includes counting seedlings of all tree species and measuring dead and downed material which might be used as habitat for forest critters. The results of the inventory are the tree growth rate of the forest, tree mortality, as well as tracking the sustainable practices the state forest uses in its management.

### **Timber Management and Minor Forests Products – 2010 statistics**

Class III Timber Sales (large sales) 750 thousand board feet was harvested during 2010 with value of \$8,816 dollars. The timber prices were very low – averaging \$11.61 per thousand board feet (stumpage price).

### **Class I Timber Sales (minor sales)**

Minor timber sales involving firewood, and other minor forest products occurred. During the year, 100 permits were issued to local individuals. The timber sales provided an excellent wood source for locals to harvest firewood from the forest.

Permit type	# Permits	Volume sold	Revenue
Personal use firewood (3 cord)	94	282 cords	\$1,880
Misc	1	1 cord	\$10
Rock	5	2.5 cu ft	\$100
Totals	100		\$1990

**Recreation:** The forest has had a lot of visitors that enjoyed playing in the snow we received during the recent storms. These storms brought more snow than I have seen in a long time. Up to three feet of snow fell in the highest location. Gloves, hats and other “fun in the snow” debris are being cleaned up. It’s surprising how much stuff shows up after the snow melts!

Special Use Permits have been sent to the Sponsors of BMDSF largest events (mountain bike races).

**Bike Monkey event – April 1<sup>st</sup> –expecting 600 participants**

**NorCal High School League – April 30<sup>th</sup> – expecting 450 participants**

**Global Biorhythm – May 21<sup>st</sup> – expecting 300 participants**

**Global Biorhythm 24 hr race – July 16/17 –expecting 250 participants**

I will be contacting Fire Prevention, ECC and South Lake County Fire prior to the events to make them aware of the increased activity on the forest. Also, this year, I will be notifying local businesses prior to the events to give them a heads up. The user fee for Special Use Events is not in place yet but will likely be beginning July (the state’s new fiscal year). In lieu of a fee this year, the large event sponsors have agreed to have the forest’s outhouses pumped. The pumping has a value of \$1500.00.

I have had positive feedback from forest visitors on the new BMDSF map. Thanks to Boone for his hard work producing a very readable, informative, and aesthetically pleasing map. Speaking of positive feedback, I also received a lot of compliments on the Interpretive Trail. I let the users know that it is the creation of FOBM and that they are working on making it even better. It pleasing to see new visitors on the forest, and they usually start their visit with a hike on the Interpretive Trail.

Improvements to the Horse Camp by The Backcountry Horsemen Association has been ongoing. They have constructed a picnic table and an artisan campfire ring. They are continuing to work towards installing a much needed outhouse. There is manure compost available at the Horse Camp, if you need compost, please help yourself.

**Recreational Statistics for 2010**

Campsites

Permits issued	115
Number of campers	273
Camper days	1039

Although a concerted attempt is made to issue permits to all campers, not all campers register, and the above numbers do not reflect the actual numbers of campers visiting the forest. It is estimated that 80% of campers are registered. Special Use Event Camping numbers is not included in the above statistics. It is estimated that there are probably twice the number of campers at the events as there are participants. These events are usually three day/two night, events.

### Special Use Events:

- 2 mountain bike races - ~150 participants each event (two events were cancelled due to weather)
- Orienteering event - ~200 participants
- Running marathon - ~150 participants
- Scouts – 2 small events – ~20 participants, each event
- Horse groups - 4 small events ~ 25 participants each event
- Lake County Search and Rescue – ~20 participants
- Paintball
- Wedding – 100 participants
- Marine Corp Historical Association

**For 2011:** Recreational changes this year will be the implementation of user fees. These fees are to be applied to camping and Special Use Events. No day use fee is being discussed at this time. The fee collection for camping will likely be an iron ranger at the forest entrance. Expect to see some additions to the old kiosk. In the plan are the iron ranger, collection envelopes, as well as a stop sign along the road with information about registration, fees, and other forest user information. Joe and I are also brainstorming how we are going to post the speed limits along the forest roads including the entrance, parking lot, campground and general forest road.

### **Law Enforcement – Illegal Activities:**

Most of the patrolling of the State Forest was conducted by forest staff. Some patrolling, (focusing on large Special Use Events), was conducted by unit prevention staff. The campground and the popular, target shooting area, are where most of our visitor contact was focused. The target shooting area is a concern because of the trash dumping and tree shooting. On a positive note, there are several users who frequently clean up the area, hoping that it will not be closed in the future, due to illegal activity and dumping.

Summary of illegal activities on Boggs:

- illegal camping
- illegal dumping
- vehicle abandonment (3)
- off road use
- shooting trees
- felony DUI arrest
- abandoned campfires
- vehicle accidents (4)

### **Fuels/Vegetation Management**

A prescribed burning project for BMDSF is planned for the east side of the forest; but has not had the necessary burning/weather conditions and no understory burning has been done. Grizzly Trail will be a fireline for the burning and has been cleared for that purpose.

Helitack crew and crews from Konocti have accomplished some of the slash pile burning in the Mill Creek logging area. This is where the feller buncher was used for harvesting. The residual landing piles are large and it is great that Helitack and Konocti Crews were able to get some of them burned this winter. Burning the piles will continue, weather permitting.

For more information or to contact the Forest Manager, please write or phone:

**Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest**

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