

A Request to the Board of Forestry for approval a Resolution supporting a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the purchase of three working forest Conservation Easements on the second phase of the Eel River Peninsula project of the Forest Legacy Program

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Forest Legacy Program Coordinator is requesting the Board of Forestry approve resolutions allowing CAL FIRE to accept a three grants totaling \$3,500,000.00 from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for the purchase of conservation easements on three tracts of the second phase of Eel River Peninsula project of the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in Mendocino County. CAL FIRE has additionally received a federal grant in fiscal year 2012 for \$7,000,000 toward the purchases of these working forest conservation easements. Note: It was the second highest rated project in the Federal FLP competition that year.

The three tracts are:

Summer Camp, 7012 acres, WCB allocation \$1,571,190

Garcia Creek 4,779 acres, WCB allocation \$1,070,839

Foster Mountain, 3,829 acres, WCB allocation \$857,971

Since the Forest Legacy Program started in California the program has conserved 95,579 acres of working forest land.

Project Background:

Eel River Peninsula Project, Phase 1: The first phase of the ERP consisted of purchasing two working forest conservation easements, on the Preston and Lawrence properties totaling 8,544 acres. The entire purchase (\$8,559,000) was funded by the WCB but the federal FLP contributed a \$100,000 grant toward the due diligence of the entire project.. The easements, held by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, are designed to achieve sustainable forestry and ecological restoration objectives. The project closed in 2011

Eel River Peninsula Project, Phase 2: The second phase of the Eel River Peninsula Project consists of three separate properties: Summer Camp, Foster Mountain, and Garcia Creek. They are located



approximately 9-air miles northeast of Willits, California on both sides of the Main Stem of the Eel River in Mendocino County. The Eel River system is a component of the California Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and segments of the Eel River system within the properties are designated as wild, scenic or recreational. Elevations on the property range from approximately 1,200 feet above sea level near the Eel River to approximately 5,000 feet on Summer Camp.

All three properties have different ownerships but very similar stewardship goals. Together the three properties consist of 15,620 acres with a net timber volume 58,642 MBF.

Additionally there is 5,852 acres of oak woodland. It is the combination of conifer timber type, oak woodland and mixed grasslands that makes these properties so attractive to Tule Elk and it is the main reason the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is helping to sponsor this project. The landowners have collectively worked with CA Fish and Wildlife to manage these properties to protect and enhance the Tule Elk habitat

Consistent with the purposes of FLP guidelines, the conservation easement will prevent the future conversion of forest land and forest resources in Mendocino County. The terms for the conservation easement include the continuance of existing forestry operations, ranching subject to the Forest Practice Rules, and agricultural uses and hunting activities which will protect: (i) water quality and supplies; (ii) wildlife habitat and maintaining habitat connectivity to ensure biodiversity; (iii) riparian areas and associated ecosystems; and maintain forest sustainability.

An appraisal was completed in January of 2016 showing an overall collective value of \$14,758,000 for the second phase of the acquisition. The conservation easement will continue to allow all forest management activities and the right for landowners to occupy the ranch.

Easement Value of all three properties	Fed. FLP Appropriation	State FLP Appropriation	Landowner donation
\$14,758,000	\$7,000,000	\$3,500,000	\$4,258,000



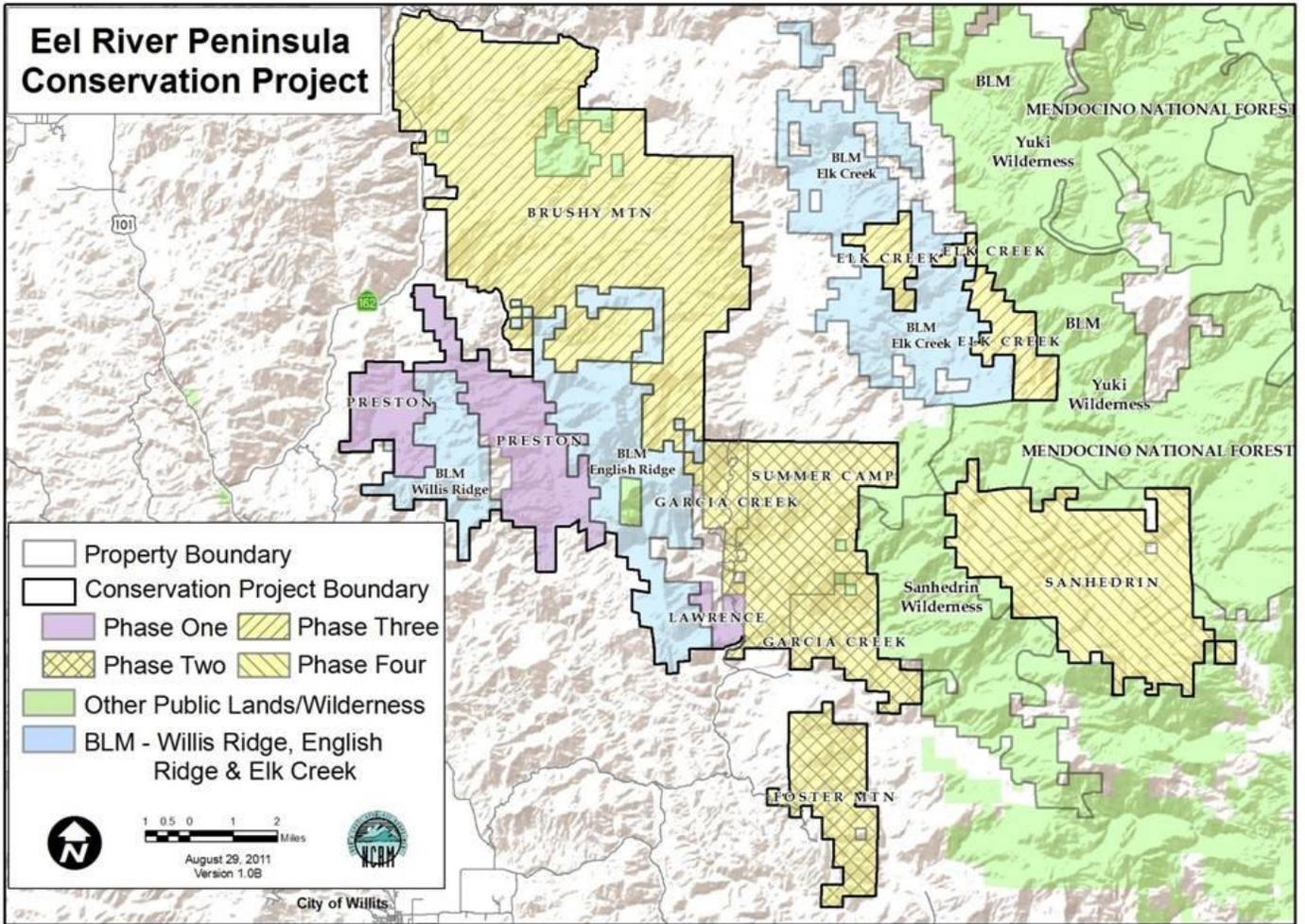
The WCB requires agencies applying for and/or receiving bond funding for projects provide a resolution from their respective boards. We anticipate closing on this property in April of 2016.

I respectfully request the Board of Forestry approve passage and signature of this Resolution.

Jeffrey J. Calvert, Forest Legacy Program Coordinator

Attached: Draft Resolutions for all three properties

Draft Grant Agreement for Foster Mountain (they are essentially the same).



DRAFT

Summary of California Forest Legacy Program Accomplishments*
 Extracted from the USDA Forest Service's Forest Legacy Information System (FLIS)
 (CE = conservation easement Fee = Fee Simple Acquisition)

Project/Tract Name	Date Funded	Date Completed	Acres	CE/Fee	Grantee	Federal FLP Contribution
Usal Redwood Forest	10/17/2011	12/31/2014	49,576	CE	CAL FIRE	\$14,047
Charles Mountain Phase 2	5/24/2010	9/06/2012	4437	CE	CAL FIRE	\$2,500,000
Chalk Mountain Phase 2	7/17/2009	9/06/2012	4024	CE	CAL FIRE	\$1,600,000
Miller PO Cedar Forest	7/17/2009	4/24/2012	1622	CE	NRLT	\$6,572
Baxter Ranch/Moffitt	10/01/2005	10/07/2011	2,500	CE	CAL FIRE	\$2,740,486
Baxter/Upper White Oak	2/15/2007	10/07/2011	1,536	CE	CAL FIRE	\$244,604
Eel River Peninsula Phase 1, Lawrence	6/01/2009	7/11/2011	640	CE	REMF	\$10,000
Eel River Peninsula Phase 1, Preston	6/01/2009	7/11/2011	7904	CE	RMEF	\$10,000
Charles Mt, Phase 1	06/01/2006	4/13/2011	2,903	CE	NCRLT	\$89,483
Chalk Mt, Phase 1	06/01/2006	1/15/2010	3,268	CE	CAL FIRE	\$3,100,000
Jenner/ Russian Gulch*	07/01/2008	12/18/2009	3,137	Fee/CE	SCOSAPD	\$1,000,000
Grizzly Mountain, South*	07/28/2008	12/30/2008	1,131	CE	NRLT	\$50,000
Valley View	11/01/2005	06/06/2008	1,532	CE	CAL FIRE	\$400,000
Sunny Brae	12/08/2004	11/03/2006	175	Fee/CE	CAL FIRE	\$ 691,000
Iaqua	12/08/2004	08/23/2006	4,747	CE	CAL FIRE	\$ 1,277,000
Price Creek	12/08/2004	08/23/2006	1,280	CE	CAL FIRE	\$ 130,000
Camp Gualala*	07/01/2002	12/05/2005	400	CE	SCOSAPD	\$ 400,000
Noren Brothers	07/01/2002	03/09/2005	9	Fee		\$ 336,166
Volcan Mountain Phase I	07/01/2001	10/01/2003	1,097	Fee		\$ 999,576
Twinning & Oracle Oak Ranches *	11/01/1999	12/28/2002	1,524	CE	PFT	\$ 40,000
Addison Forest* (Lone Tree Ridge)	12/07/2000	04/25/2001	567	CE	PFT	\$ 50,000
Leonard Lake*		12/24/1997	1,750	CE	PFT	\$ 0
California TOTAL			95,759			15,688,934

*As of February 2016

NRLT- Northcoast Regional Land Trust
 PFT-Pacific Forest Trust
 RMEF-Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 SCOSAPD-Sonoma County Open Space & Agricultural Preservation District

*Donated easements- Donated Easements are those where the entire value of the conservation easement was donated by the landowner, federal contributions (if any) were for closing costs and/or conservation easement planning only.

** Includes all contributions from various funding sources including landowner donations