

Summary of Final Report

Organization Name: The Buckeye Conservancy

Project Title: The Buckeye Forest Project – Phase III

Amount of Grant Award: \$25,000

Date of Final Report: June 23, 2006

1. What were the project goals and were they achieved?

The Buckeye Forest Project was created to review current Forest Practice Rules, regulatory and administrative effects on open space and the incentives for good stewardship of non-industrial forest and ranch properties. During the first two phases of the Project, 33 diverse stakeholders identified two initial priorities:

- 1) To increase the allowable acreage of Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans (NTMP's)
- 2) To create a longer term Timber Harvest Plan (THP)

In Phase III, participants focused particularly on refinement of the two priorities for non-industrial landowner relief identified above. The Steering Committee met 30 times during this two-year period to delve further into the issues. Four workshops were held on a series of topics to better understand and then develop realistic solutions to support economically viable stewardship of the non-industrial land base in Humboldt County and beyond.

2. What were the activities undertaken and accomplishments through the completion of this grant?

Four workshops were held:

NTMP Workshop, April 20-21, 2004, Fieldbrook

NTMP's – their strengths, weaknesses and possible use for larger acreages

Watercourse Protection Workshop, July 23, 2004, Bayside

Problems and possible solutions regarding regulatory issues for watercourse protection on non-industrial private forestland

Reconfiguring CEQA Analysis for Timber Harvest at the Planning Watershed Scale, April 7-8, 2005, Fieldbrook

How to make the cumulative watershed effects assessment required by CEQA for timber harvests more efficient for NIPF landowners and more effective for watershed enhancement and recovery

Streamlining Timber Harvest Permits for Non-industrial Landowners, Nov 3-4, 2005, Petrolia

To bring the 46 diverse stakeholders together to work on resolving some of the issues that have stood in the way of helping to get more non-industrial forest acreage under long-term management, with the focus on timber harvest permits.

3. What are the lasting benefits of the project?

A piece of legislation was developed and introduced in early 2006. SB 1342, introduced by Senator Chesbro at the request of The Buckeye Conservancy, proposed to extend the time limit on Timber Harvest Plans to five years (from the current three years with possible extension). As of the time of this report, SB 1342 passed both the Assembly and Senate Natural Resources Committees, and is headed for the Senate and Assembly floor. It is expected to make it to the Governor's desk this year.

4. How will you continue work started by this project?

We are currently undergoing strategic planning for Phase IV of this project.