



December 2, 2025 Regular Meeting of the McKinleyville Community Forest, Forest Management Plan, Budget, and Finance Subcommittee

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: MCSD Conference Room, 1656 Sutter Road, McKinleyville, California

Or

Teleconference via ZOOM or Telephone

Use ZOOM MEETING ID: 867 8228 7214 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86782287214>)

or DIAL IN TOLL FREE: 1-669-444-9171 (No Password Required!)

To participate by teleconference, please use the toll free number listed above, or join through the internet at the Zoom App with weblink and ID number listed above.

The public may submit written comments to the Board Secretary at:
comments@mckinleyvillecsd.com up until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025.

Agenda

- 1 Call To Order & Roll Call**
- 2 Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3 Additions or Changes to the Agenda**

Items may be added to the Agenda in accordance with Section 54954.2(b)(2) of the Government Code (Brown Act), upon a determination by two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the time of the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the McKinleyville Community Services District after the Agenda was posted.

4 Approval of the Agenda

5 Public Comment and Written Communications

Any person may address the Subcommittee at this time upon any subject not identified on this Agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee; however, any matter that requires action will be referred to staff for a report of action at a subsequent Subcommittee meeting. As to matters on the Agenda, an opportunity will be given to address the Subcommittee when the matter is considered. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. Letters should be used for complex issues.

6 Consider Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2025 Subcommittee Meeting

Attachment 1 – Draft Minutes from November 4, 2025 (Pg. 5)

7 Overview of \$1 Million Federal Funding for the McKinleyville Community Forest (Pg. 9)

Attachment 1 – MCSD Project Budget (Pg. 11)

Attachment 2 – TICS Project Ranking (Pg. 13)

8 Review of Draft Community Forest Management Plan v. 2025_09_08

Attachment 1 – Draft Forest Mgmt Plan v. 2025_09_08 (Pg. 15)

9 Committee Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- Next FMP Subcommittee Meeting: January 6, 2025 @ 4:30pm
- Next MCF Committee Meeting: December 16, 2025 @ 5:30pm
- Next TICS Subcommittee Meeting: January 27, 2025 @ 5:15pm
- Continue Reviewing the Draft Forest Management Plan
- Possible review of CFIP grant projects

10 Adjournment (Estimated 6:00 p.m.)

Posted 5:00 p.m. on November 26, 2025

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.5. this agenda and complete packet are available for public inspection upon request at the MCSD office, 1656 Sutter Road, McKinleyville. If you would like to receive the complete packet via email, free of charge, contact the Board Secretary at (707)839-3251 to be added to the mailing list.

McKinleyville Community Services District will, on request, make agendas available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Board Secretary at (707) 839-3251. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements for accommodations.

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY
FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN, FUNDING, AND BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 4, 2025 at 4:30 P.M.
IN PERSON AT THE MCSD OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM – 1656 SUTTER ROAD,
MCKINLEYVILLE, CALIFORNIA
and
TELECONFERENCE Via ZOOM & TELEPHONE:
Use ZOOM MEETING ID: 867 8228 7214 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86782287214>)
or DIAL IN TOLL FREE: 1-669-444-9171 (No Password Required!)**

AGENDA ITEM A. CALL TO ORDER:

- 1.a Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Patrick Kaspari.
- 1.b Roll Call:** The following members and staff in attendance in person at the MCSD Conference Room:

Patrick Kaspari, MCSD General Manager
Kirsten Messmer, MCSD Parks and Recreation Director
Maya Conrad (arrived at approximately 4:52 p.m.)
Jennifer Ortega
Joel Rink

The following Subcommittee Members were Absent:
Kevin Creed

Public Present included:
Greg Blomstro

Staff in Attendance:
Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jess Elm.

3. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: It was moved to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Jennifer Ortega **Second:** Kirsten Messmer

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, Kirsten Messmer, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink

Nays: None

Absent: Maya Conrad, Kevin Creed

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

5. Public Comment and Written Communications

There was a Public Comment letter submitted from Jacqueline Debets, the President of Redwood Empire Endurance Riders (REER), which purpose gave insight into equestrian wants and needs within the McKinleyville Community Forest. Jennifer Ortega commented about how as there are more user

groups that want to recreate in the McKinleyville Community Forest, it is important to keep forest health in mind.

6. Review and Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2025 Subcommittee Meeting

Motion: It was moved to approve the October 7, 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion by: Kirsten Messmer **Second:** Joel Rink

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, Kirsten Messmer, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink

Nays: None

Absent: Maya Conrad, Kevin Creed

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

7. Final Draft California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) Forest Management Plan (FMP) v. 2025_10_31

Item presented by Patrick Kaspari, MCSD General Manager. The Subcommittee reviewed the CFIP FMP being prepared by BBW and Associates. The Subcommittee members suggested edits to Greg Blomstrom of BBW to the CFIP FMP, with the intention of these being resolved before the November 12, 2025 draft CFIP FMP deadline to CAL FIRE.

The Subcommittee commented, discussed and asked clarifying questions.

There was no public comment.

Maya Conrad, Subcommittee Vice Chair, arrived at 4:52 p.m..

Motion: It was moved for the FMP Subcommittee to recommend that the CFIP FMP that goes to CAL FIRE on November 12th, including edits made by staff, goes to the full McKinleyville Community Forest Committee for review and approval to forward on to the MCSD Board.

Motion by: Patrick Kaspari **Second:** Joel Rink

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, Kirsten Messmer, Maya Conrad, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink

Nays: None

Absent: Kevin Creed

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

8. Review of Draft Community Forest Management Plan v. 2025_09_08

This item was tabled until the December 2, 2025 Forest Management Plan, Funding, And Budget Subcommittee meeting.

9. Committee Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- Patrick Kaspari announced Assemblymember Chris Rogers Visit
- Kirsten Messmer let the Subcommittee know that the California Conservation Corps are doing more work in the McKinleyville Community Forest
- Patrick Kaspari reported that the Padilla earmark for MCF funding did not make it out of Committee, but that Huffman's did make it out of Committee
- Jennifer Ortega asked for an update on Wright Tree Service
- Next FMP Subcommittee Meeting: December 2, 2025 @ 4:30pm
- Next MCF Committee Meeting: November 18, 2025 @ 5:30pm
- Next TICS Subcommittee Meeting: November 25, 2025 @ 5:15pm

10. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Jess Elm, Environmental Programs Coordinator

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Exhibits/Attachments:

Attachment 1- MCSD Project Budget

Attachment 2- TICS Project Ranking

McKinleyville Community Services District

Project Name: Community Forest Forest Management Plan
Organization Name: McKinleyville CSD

Task #	Major Tasks	Task Description	Major Deliverables	Task Budget	Requested Federal Match	District Match	Total Task Budget
A Project Administration							
1	Project Management	Will consist of general Project Management and coordination, scheduling, contracting, reporting and coordination of tasks and deliverable	Contracts, Invoices, audited financial statements and other deliverables as required	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
2	Reporting	Develop quarterly reports describing work completed, challenges, and strategies for reaching remaining project objectives. Develop Final Report	Quarterly and Final Reports	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
B Easement Coordination							
1	Negotiate Easements	Negotiate additional access easements including Legal	Draft Grant Deeds	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
2	Survey of Easement	Survey additional easements & generate legal description	Survey & Legal Description	\$75,000.00	\$67,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$75,000.00
3	Record Easements	Record additional easements with County of Humboldt	Grant Deed	\$20,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$20,000.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
C Community Forest, Forest Management Plan-Existing Conditions							
1	Forest Resources & Timber Inventory	Finalize timber inventory and mapping by Forester	Timber Inventory	\$75,000.00	\$67,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$75,000.00
2	Road & Trail Inventory	Inventory existing roads & trails	Road & Trail Inventory	\$75,000.00	\$67,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$75,000.00
2	Cultural Resources	Cultural Resouce Suvey by aercheologist	Cultural Resource Suvey	\$75,000.00	\$67,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$75,000.00
3	Special Status Vegetation Survey	Survey for Special Status species and map known location by Botanist	Special Status Vegetation Survey	\$50,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$50,000.00
4	Special Status Wildlife Survey	Survey for Special Status wildlife by biologist	Special Status Wildlife Survey	\$50,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$50,000.00
5	Invasive Species Survey	Survey & map invasive species by Botanist	Invasive Species Inventory	\$50,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$50,000.00
6	Watershed Survey	Survey for sediment and other loads into streams & identify areas for restoration	Watershed Survey Report	\$100,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$100,000.00
7	Wildfire Potential	Survey and develop wildfire potential and mitigation measures	Wildfire Potential & Mitigation Report	\$50,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$50,000.00
8				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
D Community Forest, Forest & Watershed Management Plan							
1	Develop Overall Goals & Objectives	Establish a Community Forest Committee consisting of community members and professional foresters, biologist, natural resource individuals and develop overall goals & objectives for the Community and hold community outreach sessions to develop and finalize goals & objectives	Overall Goals & Objective and community survey results	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
2	Forest Stewardship	Develop a Vision Statement for the Forest with Community Forest Committee and finalize with Public Input	Vision Statement	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
3	Public Access & Recreation	Develop overall Plan for access points, including ADA access, and types of recreation allowed and rules & regulations around each. Developed by Community Forest Committee with outreach and finalization with Community input.	Public Access and Overall Recreation Plan	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
4	Tribal Involvement	Work with the Wiyot and other local Tribes to develop Tribal Outreach goals along with educational and and cultural uses including special traditional plant collection	Tribal Outreach and Involvement Plan	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00

Project Name: Community Forest Forest Management Plan
Organization Name: McKinleyville CSD

Task #	Major Tasks	Task Description	Major Deliverables	Task Budget	Requested Federal Match	District Match	Total Task Budget
5	Public Safety	Develop public safety approach including houseless issues, volunteer patrol programs, trash clean-up, additional emergency access requirements, hydrant locations, hours of operation, mitigation for motorcycle access	Public Safety Plan	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
6	Education	Tribal outreach programs, school tours & use, research programs & emphasis, environmental stewardship programs	Education Plan	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
7	Trails Plan	Develop overall Trail plans for hiking, mountain bikes and horses, including designation of joint trails and activity specific trails and abandonment of existing trails. Develop rules & regs around development of new trails and abandonment of existing use trails.	Trails Plan	\$100,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00
8	Rules & Regulations	Develop overall set of Rules & Regulations for the operation and maintenance of the Community Forest for adoption by the MCSD Board.	Community Forest Rules & Regulation	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
9	Draft Final Plan for Community Review	Compile Draft Forest and Trails Management Plan for presentation to and review by the Community	Draft Forest Management Plan	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
10	Final Forest Management Plan	Draft and adopt Final Forest & Trails Management Plan	Final Forest Management Plan	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
D	Community Forest, Initial ADA Access Development						
1	Project Signage	Install Access Point signs, boundary markers, trail signage, informational kiosks	Access Point signs, boundary markers, trail signage, informational kiosks	\$75,000.00	\$67,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$75,000.00
2	ADA Access	Develop initial ADA access points and trails	ADA Parking and initial ADA Trails	\$200,000.00	\$180,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$200,000.00
3				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total McKinleyville CSD Community Forest Grant Request				\$1,405,000.00	\$1,000,500.00	\$404,500.00	\$1,405,000.00
Percentage of Total Project Cost				\$1.00	\$0.71	\$0.29	\$1.00

January 2025 TICS Subcommittee Infrastructure Project Ranking (UPDATED November)			
RANK	PROJECT	Rough Cost Estimate	COMMENTS
1	Trail signs	Flexible: \$725-\$784	
2	Rules and Regs Sign	~\$33 per sign	
3	Murray Road parking lot – Phase 1 development		Completed?
4	Trail Plan - Cost to have Consultant Finish		
5	Erosion control assessment/remediation		
6	Homeless encampment/garbage cleanups		
7	Stream Crossing improvements		
8	Design & Permitting for Bridge at Widow White Creek		
9	Bridge at Widow White Creek		
10	Design & Permitting for Bridge at Mill Creek		
11	Bridge at Mill Creek		
12	Murray Road parking lot – Phase 2 development		
13	Gravel for trails		
14	Utility vehicle side x side and storage		UTV aquired
15	First Road access and parking lot		
16	Picnic Tables	~\$1,000	Ongoing through Donor Recognition Program
17	Fences or gates to block access at non-access points		
18	Bear Garbage cans		
19	Benches		
20	Invasive species removal		
21	Porta potties		
22	Restrooms		No water
23	Trail abandonments		
24	Dog bag dispensers		
25	Tree planting & other revegetation		Partially ongoing through Donor Recognition Program
26	Drinking Fountains/Water Bottle Filling Station		
27	Install Cameras at various locations		Cameras purchased, One Installed
	*Other Important Projects of Note		
	Fire resilience		
	Stream Rehabilitation		

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MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

**DRAFT MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY FOREST
MANAGEMENT PLAN (09-02-2025) Draft, v 2, -19-28-
2025)**

June 1, 2025 to June 1, 2031

Produced by: Management/Planning/Finance/Budget Subcommittee (date)

Reviewed by: Community Forest Committee (pending, date TBD)

Approved by: MCS D Board of Directors (pending, date TBD)

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Introduction

What started as a vision and commitment by McKinleyville community leaders in 1995 to acquire a McKinleyville Community Forest (MCF) was realized in January 2024 with the acquisition of 599 acres of forest land from Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRCo). The 599 acre community forest, borders the community on the east side between Murray Road and Hunts Drive. Appendix 1, the BBW McKinleyville Community Forest Framework Plan, provides a more detailed account of the acquisition as well as the environmental and forest conditions as of October 27, 2021.

The McKinleyville Community Forest will be managed for multiple purposes including public access, recreation, timber production, fish and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, education and research and soil and watershed conservation. The intent of this Plan is to support a comprehensive, integrated management approach that considers how potential actions affect the multiple environmental aspects and management goals of the Community Forest.

A fundamental premise of community forestry is that public recreational use, wood production, and forest conservation are not mutually exclusive.

Community forests are different from parks in that the management goals include utilization of forest resources to produce economically valuable forest products, and therefore a level of periodic forest disturbance from harvest activities is expected. Community forests provide the opportunity to emphasize restoration and enhancement goals in management decisions. In addition, forest biodiversity and the presence of rare species can be viewed as a valued community asset.

This document delineates how the McKinleyville Community Forest will develop and evolve over time and how the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCS D), along with broad community-represented participation, will guide, plan and implement the development. The major overarching goals that guide that development are presented below. Each of the sections of this plan contain more specific goals each of which relate back to one or more of the major goals.

Major Goals

The overarching goals of this plan are summarized below in no particular order. All the goals are equally vital to the success of the McKinleyville Community Forest. Greater detail of these goals is included in the various applicable sections within this document.

- a.1. Develop a diverse, sustainable community forest.
- b.2. Promote biodiversity throughout the forest, focused on native species, and mature timber stands.

Commented [JE1]: What the framework plan says: "In 1995 the McKinleyville Community Advisory Committee was formed and included members of the community interested in a community forest. By 2002 the MCAC and other community members had developed, and had adopted, the McKinleyville Community Plan, which included a community forest on the east side of McKinleyville. In 2008 the Forest Project Work Group was formed and helped to advocate for a community forest in McKinleyville. This effort evolved into the Humboldt Bay Regional Community Forest Working Group"

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3. Develop the MCF to provide safe access for a diverse range of users and activities-

4. Develop an educational component that includes cross cultural, multi-modal and cross demographic curricula.

5. Develop and maintain a collaborative working relationship with multiple public safety response organizations such as Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, CalFire, Arcata Fire Protection District, etc.

6. Reduce the potential negative environmental impacts of roads, trails and invasive species-

7. Implement infrastructure improvements that minimize the environmental impacts and support access and usage of the forest.

8. Establish and maintain a strong, diverse financial base that sustains future forest management

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Public Access, Infrastructure, and Recreation

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One of the primary reasons the MCSD pursued the acquisition of the MCF is to meet the growing demands for trails and dispersed, diversifying recreational use in the McKinleyville area.

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The McKinleyville Community Plan and Humboldt County Trails Plan both describe the long-term goals of providing additional trails in the forested hills east of McKinleyville. The new MCF acquisition allows for a trails plan to now be developed and implemented that will provide for managed recreational uses. The MCF will improve the quality of life for area residents and visitors by providing outstanding recreational opportunities. Recreational facilities will be designed to be compatible with adjacent land uses, forest stewardship, resource conservation, and timber operations within a working forest. 1 To that end, the goals below will be the guide for further development of the MCF for recreational access and use.

The Trails/Infrastructure/Clean-up/Security Subcommittee (TICS) will develop a list that captures projects for recreation, infrastructure and access/security improvements. This will be an ongoing list that suggests possible project priorities and estimated costs.

Once the priority projects are selected and the commensurate funding secured, the projects will be implemented by either MCSD staff and/or contractors and, in some cases, by volunteer organizations coordinated through MCSD.

Public Access, Infrastructure and Recreation Goals

- a. Improve existing roads specifically to protect water crossings, minimize erosion and sediment runoff as well as make them 'all seasons' roads. (Major Goal(s) 6.7)

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- b. Further develop and improve the existing roads and trails network to support multiple access points, diverse recreational usage, timber management, emergency access/operations. (MG 5.7)
- c. Develop trail classification and signage system to minimize safety risks and the potential conflicts between different user groups. (MG 3)
- d. Develop key access points to include: (MG 3.7)
 - i. Parking area that ~~also can~~ accommodate horse trailers
 - ii. Restrooms
 - iii. Picnic tables
 - iv. Information boards with MCF 'You Are Here' maps and emergency procedures
 - v. Trash/recycling receptacles and dog waste bag dispensers
- e. Identify and characterize different user groups and their respective needs such as: (MG 3.4)
 - vi. Hikers/walkers/runners/dog walkers/
 - ~~vii.~~ Users with limited mobility and/or needing accommodation
Americans with Disability Act (ADA) users
 - ~~viii.~~ Equestrians
 - ~~ix.~~ Cyclists/mountain bikers
 - ~~x.~~ School education groups
 - ~~xi.~~ Tribal, Indigenous groups
 - ~~xii.~~ Environmental researchers
 - ~~xiii.~~ Emergency response agencies
- f. Assess feasibility to install a potable water system to provide sanitary support to restrooms as well as drinking water. (MG 7)
- g. Maintain compliance with the State Natural Resource Agency's prohibition of motorized vehicle use in the MCF. (MG 3.6)

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Achievement of these goals can be realized through actions of MCSD staff, the MCSD Board of Directors and efforts of the members of the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee (MCFC) and the Trails/Infrastructure/Clean-up/Security Subcommittee (TICS) and the Forest Management/Planning/Finance/Budget (FMP) Subcommittees. In addition, various volunteer organizations will play an invaluable role in achieving these goals.

Trails are and will continue to be a key recreational asset of the MCF. The TICS is charged with developing a trails plan for the MCF. The scope of this plan will include at least the following:

- a. Identification of the various MCF user groups and their respective needs for access to and use of the trails, both multi-use trails as well as user group-specific trails;

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- b. Established a process for planning, locating, designing, constructing and maintaining trails;
- c. Incorporate recognized standards for access and accommodation, and sustainable trail design, construction and maintenance;
- d. A master MCF map including an interactive version and the procedures for keeping the maps current;
- e. Development of a trails designation and signage system; and,
- f. A MCF Trail Users Guide including emergency procedures and trail etiquette;
- g. In collaboration with local emergency response agencies, designation of emergency access points, medical evacuation points (both via land and air);

The TICS subcommittee will also develop and maintain a list of projects which enhance the MCF user experience. These projects will address, but not be limited to:

- Trail development and maintenance
- Road maintenance;
- Erosion control;
- Infrastructure components, e.g., access points, information boards and trail/road signage;
- Invasive species removal; and,
- Wildfire risk reduction measures.

This will be an ongoing list that suggests possible project priorities and estimated costs. Once the priority projects are identified must then selected, go through an approval process, and the commensurate funding secured, the projects will be implemented by either MCSD staff and/or contractors (under MCSD's direction) and, in some cases, by volunteer organizations coordinated through MCSD.

⌘

Forest Stewardship

Forest Stewardship refers to the responsible planning and management of forest resources to sustain and enhance their ecological, economic, and social values over time. It emphasizes long-term care of the land, promoting biodiversity, supporting ecosystem services, and integrating sustainable use with conservation.

Forest practices will protect, maintain and/or restore the aesthetics, vitality, structure and functioning of the natural processes, including fire, of the forest ecosystem and its components. (ref. Institute for Sustainable Forestry, ISF).

The forest stewardship practices will also be integrated and compatible with recreational uses of the MCF, as well as periodic commercial timber harvesting.

Forest Stewardship Goals

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- a. Add value to the property through application of single tree selection silviculture which allows for development of mature forest conditions over time and into perpetuity. (MG 1.2)
- b. Provide for a well-designed and maintained system of roads for the purpose of that are co-used as recreational trails, timber harvesting, and emergency response access. (MG 6)
- c. Plan and implement restoration projects including fish and wildlife habitat and water quality improvement. (MG 6)
- d. Reduce environmental effects of invasive species and. (MG 6)
- ~~d.e.~~ Reduce impacts of roads and trails to water quality and fish riparian and aquatic habitat. (MG 6.7)
- e.f. Provide educational, research and recreational opportunities. (MG 3.4)
- f.g. Utilize revenue from timber harvest, grant funding and other sources to supplement forest management and maintenance costs and improvements. (MG 8)

Community Involvement

This will be an inclusive process that ensures that the values, concerns and wishes of the broadest cross section of the community has an equal opportunity to be heard

- *The ongoing successful development of the MCF depends on the active involvement of a broad cross section of McKinleyville community members. Participation in the development process is the most effective means by which community members can contribute and ensure that their opinions, recommendations and concerns are heard by the various committees and the MCSD Board of Directors, aka the Board. The committee and Board meetings are open to the public and offer an opportunity to give verbal comment of agenda items. In addition, individuals are encouraged to submit written comments for more extensive and/or complex viewpoints.*

Active community involvement will positively contribute to the development, characteristics, priorities and usage of the McKinleyville Community Forest, both in the short and long term.

Community involvement includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Attending Public meetings and participate in the public input process
- b. Developing a familiarity with the MCSD Community Forest webpages: McKinleyville Community Forest - <https://mckinleyvillecsd.ca.gov/mckinleyville-forest>
- c. Developing a familiarity of the MCF by accessing the forest; download the interactive map
- d. Encouraging fellow community members to become informed and get involved.

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Commented [KC6]: See page 82 of BBW framework doc

Commented [KC7]: At some point, it will be beneficial to have a representative(s) from the Tribal community read and comment on the draft community forest management plan and comment.

- h. Joining volunteer organizations/efforts actively involved with the MCF.

Community Involvement Goals

- a. Promote access to the forest by Native people practicing traditional tribal practices, such as gathering native plants. (MG 3.4)
- b. Engage with local Native tribes and groups to assist in management of the forest consistent with historic Native practices. (MG 1.3)
- c. Actively promote volunteerism that benefits the environmental health, enhances recreational use, and provides additional resources for forest management. (MG 3.4.8)
- d. Increase public awareness and understanding of community-based forestry. (MG 1.2.4)
- e. Seek partnerships with local schools and community groups for training opportunities. (MG 4)
- f. Collaborate with individuals, organizations, tribal and government entities promote ecosystem health and sustainability. (MG 1.2.4)
- g. Encourage public input through efforts such as, but not limited to, public meetings, surveys, and workshops. (MG 4)

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- Commented [KC8]: How is the purpose of this statement different, if any, than from the community involvement examples above?
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Public Safety

Public safety is the identification and evaluation of various risks, both naturally occurring and human behavior-based, plus the implementation of effective control measures that reduce those risks to acceptable levels.

Forest users should be aware of existing MCSD MCF rules and regulations and should be adequately prepared while using the forest. In cases of emergencies, call 911 and for other non-emergency issues, contact MCSD.

The foreseeable MCF public safety issues include:

The Public Safety Goals can be achieved through a collaboration between MCSD, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, CalFire and local fire agencies and individual MCF users.

Entry into any forest is not without some safety risks, both naturally occurring and human behavior-based. The overall goal is to minimize to the greatest extent practicable the risks posed by foreseeable safety issues within the MCF such as:

- Illegal trespassing, camping, trash dumping;
- Unauthorized motor vehicle use;
- Illegal hunting, fishing, and firearm use;

- Commented [KC9]: See pages 54 and 87 of the BBW framework doc
- Commented [GB10]: I think it would be useful to develop a neighborhood by neighborhood list of issues, opportunities and contact list to begin localizing each access points specific problems and opportunities.
- Commented [KC11R10]: Agreed

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Forest management activities, e.g. fuels reduction efforts, timber harvest ;
 Illegal campfires and fireworks;
 Wildland/forest fires;
 Trail use conflicts/accidents;
 Illegal trail modifications (e.g. mountain bike jumps);
 Falling tree hazards; and,
 Potentially dangerous wildlife encounters.

MCF users are encouraged to adopt specific safety practices which help reduce risk to themselves and other forest users including:

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Forest Safety Practices:

- Become knowledgeable of local rules and regulations (link to MCSD MCF rules)
- Familiarize yourself with the area; review the MCF trail map; download the interactive map (provide link here)
- Carry an adequate amount of drinking water (1/2 liter per hour ??) ; carry additional water for young children as well as snacks.
- Check the weather forecast and dress accordingly
- Have a charged cell phone and emergency contact phone numbers
- Report unsafe conditions (link and/or number here).

Commented [JE12]: Kevin: Probably a good idea to have TICS review and vet these practices.

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In case of a wildlife encounter TBD

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The goals to reduce risks are presented below.

Entry into any forest is not without some safety risks, both naturally occurring and human behavior based. The overall goal is to minimize to the greatest extent practicable the risks posed by these foreseeable safety issues and others that may arise within the MCF such as:

The Public Safety Goals to reduce risks are presented below.

Public Safety Goals

- a. Encourage public safety to be the top priority for the users of the McKinleyville Community Forest ~~at their own risk~~ (MG 3)
- b. ~~MCSD to~~ cooperatively work with federal, state and county agencies and non-governmental organizations to integrate fire prevention and

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suppression resources and develop and implement hazardous fuel reduction projects to reduce the risk of wildfire (MG ??)

c. MCSD and Humboldt County will enforce applicable county rules and regulations prohibiting such activities (MG ??)

i. ~~as~~ illegal dumping

ii. camping

iii. no hunting,

iv. leash law violations

v. and littering,

e.vi. Use of motorized vehicles

d. Develop evacuation plans and evacuation routes in consultation with applicable agencies

e. Develop emergency access for fire trucks, law enforcement vehicles, helicopters, ambulances, litters, etc.

f. Provide public education and plans for wildfire safety and evacuations

g. Provide specific safety plans for trail closures or detours around active timber harvests or other operations where heavy equipment is in use

h. Resolve any trail user conflicts, to the extent feasible, through education, effective trail signage, design and designation of trails to promote safety and maintenance and construction of rolling dips for use as speed control, and periodic trail patrol. The emphasis will be on education so that trail users adopt appropriate trail etiquette and self-police the trail system.

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h. Specific actions that MCSD will do towards the public safety goals are:

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1. Ensure Safe Access and Use

a. Maintain trails, access roads, and infrastructure to prevent hazards (e.g., erosion, trip hazards, collapsed culverts).

b. Install and maintain proper signage to orient users, designate trail uses and highlight hazards.

c. Design trails and access points to allow emergency vehicle access where appropriate.

2. Fire Risk Reduction

a. Conduct regular fuel load assessments and implement fuel reduction strategies (e.g., thinning, removal of ladder fuels, shaded fuel breaks).

b. Coordinate with local fire agencies (Cal Fire, Humboldt Bay Fire) to develop a wildfire response plan.

c. Educate the public on fire prevention and restrictions (e.g., no campfires, smoking policies).

3. Hazard Tree Management

- a. Regularly assess and remove dead or hazardous trees, especially near trails, roads, parking areas, and gathering spaces.
- b. Prioritize hazard tree mitigation in areas of high public use or visitation.

4. Emergency Response Preparedness

- a. Develop and post emergency response protocols and contact information at trailheads.
- b. Assign GPS-located emergency access points to aid first responders.
- c. Maintain clear, accessible communication with local law enforcement, fire, and EMS.

5. Address Illegal or Unsafe Activity

- a. Coordinate with Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office to monitor and deter illegal camping, dumping, vandalism, and other unsafe activities.
- b. Explore non-enforcement-based safety options (e.g., community patrols, stewardship volunteers, increased visibility).
- c. Design the property to discourage secluded or high-risk areas (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles).

6. Public Health and Sanitation

- a. Install and maintain trash receptacles and pet waste stations.
- b. Consider provision of restrooms or sanitation stations at main trailheads.
- c. Monitor water quality if there is public access to creeks or wetlands.

7. Visitor Education

- a. Provide clear information on forest rules, trail etiquette, and safety tips at trailheads and online.
- b. Engage the community through guided walks, interpretive signage, and events to build awareness of shared responsibility for forest safety.

b- (Closing paragraph needed)

MCSO, public emergency response agencies and MCF forest users all have important roles in collectively making the McKinleyville Community Forest an enjoyable, enriching and safe place.

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Education

In order for the community members to fully appreciate the beauty, diversity and complexity of the MCF ecosystem, as well as the benefits and responsibilities of having access to the MCF, a robust educational component must be in place as part of the planning process. The educational component will also be vital in bringing clarity of forest use rules and respectful etiquette.

Commented [KC13]: See page 54 of BBW framework doc

~~Elements of the educational efforts can include:~~

- ~~a. Informational boards and pamphlets at trailheads~~
- ~~b.a. Expansion of existing MCF webpages~~
- ~~c.a. Community forest educational presentations~~
- ~~d.a. Docent led community forest tours~~
- ~~e.a. K-12 educational presentations, curriculum development, forest tours and student projects~~
- ~~f.a. Create opportunities for college and university research and studies~~
- ~~g.a. Local print and video media articles/presentations~~

Education Goals **(MG-4)**

- a. Provide opportunities for involvement with local schools, colleges, universities and the McKinleyville Land Trust.
- b. Utilize docents and naturalist guided walks to provide opportunities for people to expand their knowledge and enjoyment of the forest.
- c. Increase awareness and appreciation of cultural heritage by working with the local tribes to increase cultural awareness of the forest.
- d. Optimize the utilization of web-based platforms to ensure a broad and diverse information base.
- e. ~~Create and provoke~~ **Promote** a sense of responsibility for the users of the MCF through educational opportunities.

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Commented [KC14]: Suggest 'promote' vs create and provoke

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Elements of the educational efforts can include:

- ~~a. Informational boards and pamphlets at trailheads~~
- ~~b. Expansion of existing MCF webpages~~
- ~~c. Community forest educational presentations~~
- ~~d. Docent-led community forest tours~~
- ~~e. K-12 educational presentations, curriculum development, forest tours and student projects~~
- ~~f. Create opportunities for college and university research and studies~~
- ~~g. Local print and video media articles/presentations~~

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Management/Planning/Finance

Management of the McKinleyville Community Forest is governed by an overarching McKinleyville Community Forest Committee (MCFC), subcommittees as needed, and ultimately by the MCS D Board of Directors.

The ~~existing~~ Forest Management Planning and ~~Funding Finance~~/Budget Subcommittee (FMP F&B) ~~is developing~~ the Community Forest Management Plan, proposes major goals for the community forest management, and identifies funding options and budgeting. As

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warranted, the subcommittee forwards proposals to the Community Forest Committee and subsequently to the Board of Directors for review and approval.

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The ~~existing~~ Trails/Infrastructure Clean-ups and Security (TICS) Subcommittee's main goal is to create a Trails Plan for the McKinleyville Community Forest. In short, the scope of the trails plan is to:

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- Identify the various MCF user groups and their respective needs
- Develop a process for development of new trails and maintenance of existing trails
- Identify candidate projects to improve usage of the MCF and infrastructure
- Develop a trails designation and map systems
- The Trail Plan develops infrastructure and trail projects, reviews trail related use issues, and regulations.

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In addition, TICS develops, prioritize and maintains a MCF candidate projects list. These in turn are forwarded to the Community Forest Committee for review and, as required, forwarded to the Board for approval.

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Project Planning and Management

Commented [KC15]: I think a project development flow diagram would be very helpful here showing the different project origin points, subcommittee(s), CFC reviews necessary and when approval by the Board is necessary. (at least helpful for my visual orientation)
And subsequently, I think the text of this section would follow more easily.

MCF project proposals originate at the staff, committee, and/or subcommittee level. Each project proposal is subject to review and assessment for a number of possible administrative oversight and/or permitting requirements plus fiscal and budgetary impact.

- This starts with an internal MCSD review for:

- a. Feasibility and scope of work
- b. Sequencing: Is the project a prerequisite to other projects or is there a prerequisite project that must be completed first?
- c. Funding availability – if grant funded confirmation that the project qualifies for the grant
- d. Subject to CEQA review as required
- e. Subject to review, oversight and/or permitting by external agencies such as:
 - i. CAL FIRE
 - ii. California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - iii. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - iv. Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - v. NOAA Fisheries
 - vi. California Geological Survey
 - vii. Humboldt County
 - viii. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - ix. North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District

Appendices

- a. BBW McKinleyville Community Forest Framework Plan

- b. Maps
- c. Implementation Plans
 - i. Trails plan (existing, maintenance, planned)
 - ii. Roads plan (existing, maintenance, planned)
 - iii. Invasive Species Eradication Plan
 - iv. Erosion Control Plan (prevention and corrective mitigation)
- d. Maps (or map with layers)

Commented [KC16]: The Trails Plan covers roads within the MCF therefore, a separate roads plan is not necessary. Whether stand-alone plans are needed for invasive species eradication and erosion control respectively TBD. (meant to be associated with Implementation Plans, not Maps.