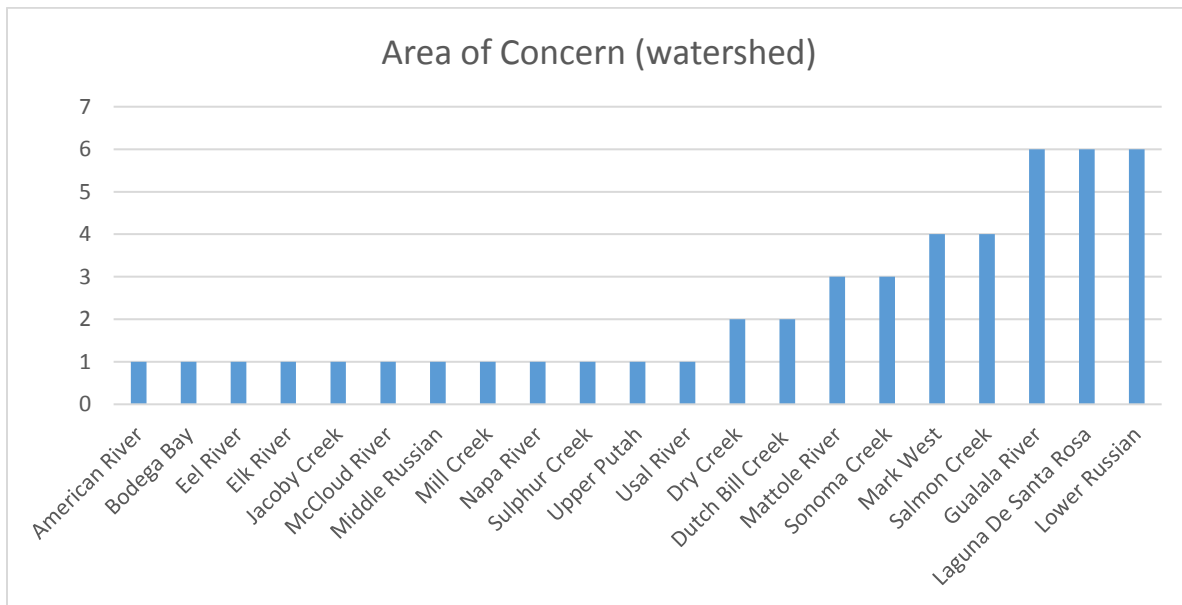


North Coast Forest Conservation Conference Survey Data Analysis

In June of 2017, the Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group (Working Group) hosted the 2017 North Coast Forest Conservation Conference. The goal of the Conference was to gather forest landowners, managers, and different agencies to discuss how to keep our forests ecologically and economically viable. The Working Group used this opportunity to survey attendees to identify geographical foci for future outreach and education, topics of interest, and management concerns for forestland owners and managers in Sonoma County. The Conference and the surveys serve as a tool to assist in the development of the Working Group's subsequent two-year Work Plan.

Out of 186 conference attendees, 42 surveys were returned (23%).

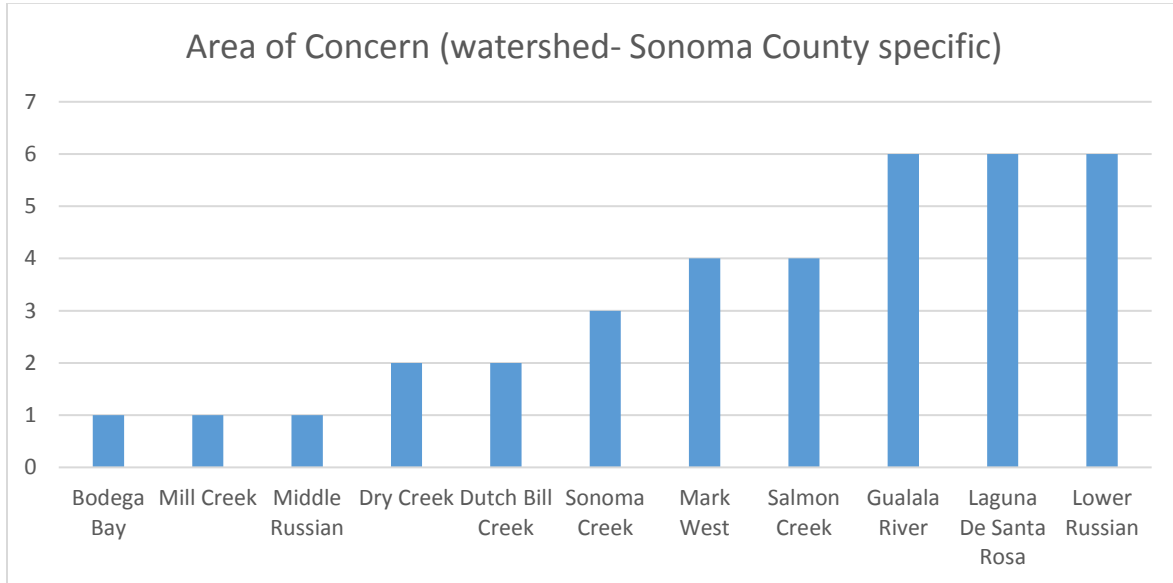
Question 1: For your area of concern, what's the closest town and watershed?



Responses indicate that the greatest geographic areas of concern amongst conference survey participants is the Lower Russian River/Guerneville North Watershed, the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed, and the Gualala River Watershed, each at 14% of respondents. The next watersheds of greatest concern in descending order are the Salmon Creek Watershed (10%); the Mark West Creek Watershed (10%); Sonoma Creek Watershed (7%); the Mattole River Watershed (7%); the Dutch Bill Creek Watershed (5%); Dry Creek Watershed (5%); the Middle Russian Watershed (2%); Mill Creek Watershed (2%); the Usal River Watershed (2%); the Upper Putah Creek Watershed (2%); Sulphur Creek Watershed (2%); the Napa River Watershed (2%); the McCloud River Watershed (2%); the Jacoby Creek Watershed (2%); the Elk River Watershed (2%); the Eel River Watershed (2%); Bodega Bay Watershed (2%); and the American River Watershed (2%). Some survey participants noted more than one watershed of concern.

For Sonoma County specific watersheds, the following percentages represent the responses indicating each watershed as an area of concern in descending order: Lower Russian River/Guerneville North

Watershed (17%); Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed (17%); Gualala River Watershed (17%); Salmon Creek Watershed (11%); the Mark West Creek Watershed (11%); Sonoma Creek Watershed (8%); the Dutch Bill Creek Watershed (6%); Dry Creek Watershed (6%); the Middle Russian Watershed (3%); Mill Creek Watershed (3%); and Bodega Bay Watershed (3%).



Question 2: How many acres are you concerned about? What's your role with the land (e.g. landowner/consultant/recreational user)?

Watershed	Acres	Owner/Manager
Dutch Bill	1,300	manager
Gualala	1,200	manager
Gualala	1,000	manager
Gualala	40	owner
Gualala	4,344	owner
Lower Russian	300	owner
Lower Russian	10	manager
Lower Russian	1.5	owner
Mark West	3,200	manager
Mark West	400	owner
Mark West	3,200	manager
Middle Russian	3,000	manager
Salmon Creek	40	owner
Salmon Creek	10	owner
Salmon Creek	314	manager

The chart above shows conference survey participants in Sonoma County by watershed, acreage of forestland they are concerned about, and whether they own or manage that forestland. Each row in the chart represents one landowner or manager. 15 survey participants (36%) indicated that they are forestland owners and/or managers in Sonoma County. Of the forestland owners and/or managers, survey participants represent the following number of acres in each corresponding watershed: 6,800 acres (Mark West Creek Watershed); 6,584 acres (Gualala River Watershed); 3,000 acres (Middle Russian Watershed); 1,300 acres (Dutch Bill Creek Watershed); 364 acres (Salmon Creek Watershed); and 311.5 acres (Lower Russian River Watershed). Discrepancies in acreages between different watersheds may reflect typical forestland property size differences between watersheds.

Collectively, survey participants represent a total of 18,359.5 acres through ownership and management in Sonoma County.

Question 3: What information presented was most useful? In what way will it change the way you hope your forestland is managed?

Among the 34 survey respondents to this question, 19 unique answers were provided in regard to the most useful information presented at the conference. The diverse range of answers may reflect that interests and/or needs of forestland stakeholders are diverse and varied. In descending order, the most useful information presented at the conference as indicated by survey responses were:

1. Forests: A Place to Gather (*Reno Keoni Franklin*) (5 respondents)
2. Working Together (*Penny Sirota, Judy Rosales, Caerleon Safford, Linwood Gill, Arthur Dawson*) (4 respondents)
3. Solutions to Forest Challenges (*Sasha Berleman, Mark Grandek, Shanti Edwards, Noah Levy, Steven Swain*) (3 respondents)
4. Building Opportunities for Voluntary Forest Carbon Offset Projects (*John Nickerson*) (3 respondents)
5. Forest Management across the Ownership Spectrum (*Darin Jarnaghan, Daniel Falk, Mike Miles, Chris Kelly*) (2 respondents)
6. Asserting Leadership for Forest Health (*Robert Ewing*) (2 respondents)
7. Mill Creek Watershed and Bear Flat Forest field trip (1 respondent)

Other sessions that survey participants (1 response for each topic) found useful were:

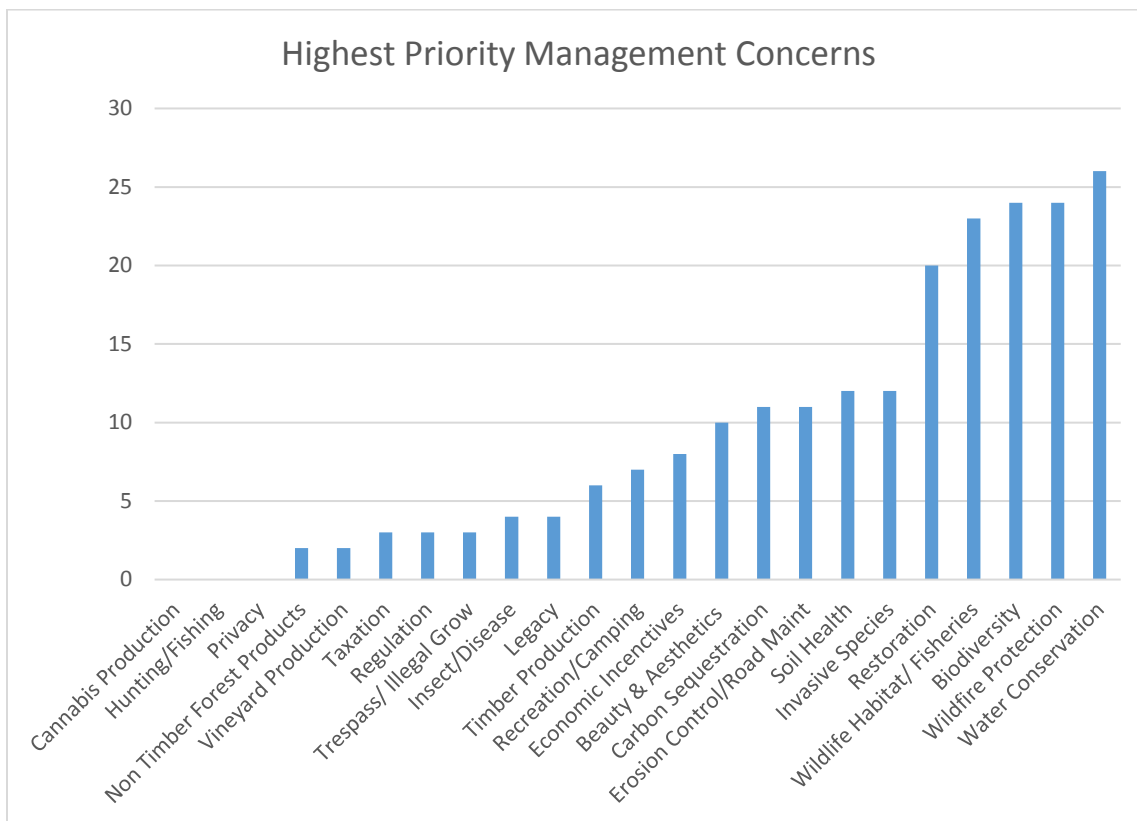
- Restoring Resiliency: A Case Study in the Headwaters of the Mattole River
- Asserting Leadership for Forest Health
- Climate and Carbon Impacts on Landowners: An Economic Perspective
- Coast Ridge Community Forest (Working Together panel)
- How the AB 1492 Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program Can Help Small Forest Landowners
- Nature-Based Solutions to Secure Our Future
- Forest Conservation: Seeing the Trees AND the Forest — Working Forest Easements Across All Scales

Broad topics survey participants noted were:

- Best forest management practices (3 respondents)
- The conservation industry (1 respondent)
- Helpful resources (1 respondent)
- Markets for forestry (1 respondent)
- Road Decommissioning (1 respondent)

Zero survey participants answered the question of how the information at the conference will change the way they manage forestland.

Question 4: Please check the five highest priority management concerns for your property



- The five highest priority management concerns are Water Conservation, Wildfire Protection, Biodiversity, Wildlife Habitat/Fisheries, and Restoration.
- Surveys show that all participants from the Mark West Creek Watershed are concerned about water conservation and biodiversity.
- Surveys show that all participants from the Laguna De Santa Rosa Watershed are concerned about wildfire protection and water conservation.
- Surveys show that both participants from the Sonoma Creek Watershed are concerned with water conservation, wildlife habitat/fisheries, and biodiversity.
- Other Sonoma County watersheds include survey participants with the following management concerns:

- Lower Russian River
 - Wildfire protection – 2 respondents
 - Water conservation – 2 respondents
 - Wildlife habitat/Fisheries – 2 respondents
 - Invasive species – 1 respondent
 - Biodiversity – 1 respondents
 - Beauty & Aesthetics – 1 respondents
 - Soil health – 2 respondents
 - Erosion control/Road maintenance – 2 respondents
 - Carbon sequestration – 1 respondent
 - Recreation/Camping – 1 respondent
 - Trespass/Illegal grows – 1 respondent
- Laguna de Santa Rosa
 - Wildfire protection – 3 respondents
 - Water conservation – 3 respondents
 - Invasive species – 2 respondents
 - Biodiversity – 2 respondents
 - Soil health – 1 respondent
 - Erosion control/Road maintenance – 1 respondent
 - Restoration – 1 respondent
 - Leaving a legacy – 1 respondent
 - Trespass/Illegal grows – 1 respondent
- Gualala River
 - Wildfire protection – 2 respondents
 - Water conservation – 2 respondents
 - Wildlife habitat/Fisheries – 2 respondents
 - Biodiversity – 1 respondent
 - Beauty & Aesthetics – 1 respondent
 - Soil health – 2 respondents
 - Erosion control/Road maintenance – 1 respondent
 - Carbon sequestration – 2 respondents
 - Restoration – 3 respondents
 - Vineyard production – 1 respondent
 - Insect/Disease – 2 respondents
 - Regulation – 1 respondent
 - Taxation – 2 respondents
 - Economic incentives – 1 respondent
 - Timber production – 1 respondent
- Salmon Creek
 - Wildlife habitat/Fisheries – 2 respondents
 - Invasive species – 2 respondents
 - Biodiversity – 3 respondent
 - Beauty & Aesthetics – 1 respondent
 - Soil health – 1 respondent

- Restoration – 2 respondents
- Timber production – 1 respondent
- Mark West Creek
 - Wildfire protection – 3 respondents
 - Water conservation – 4 respondents
 - Wildlife habitat/Fisheries – 2 respondents
 - Invasive species – 2 respondents
 - Biodiversity – 4 respondents
 - Soil health – 2 respondents
 - Carbon sequestration – 1 respondent
 - Restoration – 2 respondents
 - Taxation – 1 respondent
 - Economic incentives – 1 respondent
- Sonoma Creek
 - Water conservation – 2 respondent
 - Wildlife habitat/Fisheries – 2 respondents
 - Biodiversity – 2 respondents
 - Beauty & Aesthetics – 1 respondent
 - Erosion control/Road maintenance – 1 respondent
 - Carbon sequestration – 1 respondent
 - Restoration – 1 respondent
- Dutch Bill Creek
 - Water conservation – 1 respondents
 - Wildlife habitat/Fisheries – 2 respondents
 - Invasive species – 1 respondents
 - Biodiversity – 1 respondent
 - Beauty & Aesthetics – 1 respondents
 - Soil health – 1 respondent
 - Carbon sequestration – 1 respondent
 - Restoration – 1 respondent
 - Vineyard production – 1 respondent
- Middle Russian
 - Wildfire protection – 1 respondent
 - Water conservation – 1 respondents
 - Carbon sequestration – 1 respondents
 - Erosion control/Road maintenance – 1 respondent
 - Soil health – 1 respondent
- Bodega Bay
 - Wildfire protection – 1 respondent
 - Water conservation – 1 respondent
 - Carbon sequestration – 1 respondent
 - Erosion control/Road maintenance – 1 respondent
 - Biodiversity – 1 respondent
- Management concerns survey participants noted in the 'Other' category (once each) are:

- Orchard management
- Managing food forests
- Education for tourists
- Cultural uses of the land
- Restoring bunchgrass

Management concerns, as they correspond to specific watersheds, are indicative of general natural resource concerns in each watershed. However, this survey’s sample size may be too small to draw accurate conclusions about the greatest management concerns in each watershed.

Question 5: Please tell us about what resources you've utilized in the past

Resource:	I've Used This	I'd Like to Know More
CalFire California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) Grants	11	6
NRCS Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) Grants	12	4
Local RCD Assistance	9	6
UCCE Forest Stewardship Info/ Forestland Stewardship Newsletter	10	5

Respondents in Sonoma County watersheds stated they used the following resources:

- Mark West Creek:
 - CalFire CFIP Grants – 3 respondents
 - NRCS EQIP Grants – 2 respondents
 - Local RCD Assistance – 3 respondents
 - UCCE Forest Stewardship Information – 1 respondent
- Salmon Creek:
 - CalFire CFIP Grants – 3 respondents
 - NRCS EQIP Grants - 1 respondent
 - Local RCD Assistance – 1 respondent
 - UCCE Forest Stewardship Information- 1 respondent
- Dutch Bill Creek:
 - CalFire CFIP Grants – 1 respondent
 - NRCS EQIP Grants - 1 respondent
 - Local RCD Assistance – 1 respondent
 - UCCE Forest Stewardship Information- 1 respondent
- Gualala River:
 - CalFire CFIP Grants – 2 respondents
 - NRCS EQIP Grants - 1 respondent
 - UCCE Forest Stewardship Information- 2 respondents
- Laguna de Santa Rosa:
 - NRCS EQIP Grants - 1 respondent
- Sonoma Creek:
 - NRCS EQIP Grants - 1 respondent
 - Local RCD Assistance – 2 respondents
 - UCCE Forest Stewardship Information- 1 respondent

- Bodega Bay:
 - CalFire CFIP Grants – 1 respondent
 - NRCS EQIP Grants - 1 respondent
 - Local RCD Assistance – 1 respondent
 - UCCE Forest Stewardship Information- 1 respondent
- Middle Russian River:
 - UCCE Forest Stewardship Information- 1 respondent

Respondents in Sonoma County watersheds stated they wanted to know more about the following resources:

- Mark West Creek:
 - UCCE Forest Stewardship Information- 1 respondents
- Salmon Creek:
 - CalFire CFIP Grants – 1 respondent
 - NRCS EQIP Grants – 1 respondent
 - Local RCD Assistance – 2 respondents
- Gualala River:
 - CalFire CFIP Grants – 1 respondent
- Laguna de Santa Rosa:
 - CalFire CFIP Grants - 1 respondent
 - NRCS EQIP Grants - 2 respondents
 - Local RCD Assistance – 1 respondent
 - UCCE Forest Stewardship Information- 1 respondent
- Sonoma Creek:
 - UCCE Forest Stewardship Information- 1 respondent

Other resources used by survey participants include (Each of these resources only appeared once on the surveys):

- National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
- California Department of Water Resources
- North Coast Water Quality Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Native Plant Society
- Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps

Question 6: Have there been forest management activities on your forestland? If so, what did you learn from that experience? What would have helped to further that work?

12 (29%) survey participants have participated in forest management activities on their land. Most forest management activities included thinning and fuel reduction. The biggest obstacles to carrying out these management activities were expenses and regulations.

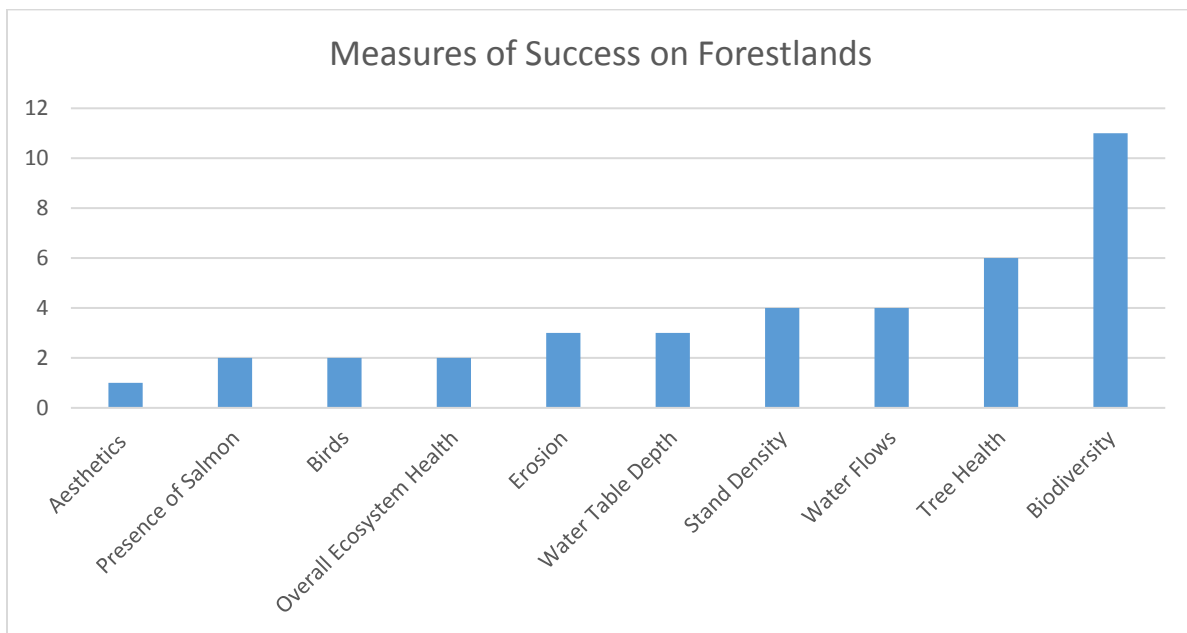
Other forest management activities survey participants have carried out include replanting, invasive species removal, and harvesting. Other obstacles people had with forest management were lack of

resources (people who can and are willing to do the work), lack of road access on their property, the timely process of management, and minimal access/knowledge of assistance programs.

Question 7: How do you currently evaluate/measure success on your forestland? Do you have records? What will you measure in the future?

Of 18 people who answered, 11 have access to historical records or have been documenting recent data. Currently, the top six ways survey participants measure success are biodiversity (61% of respondents), tree health (33% of respondents), water flows (22% of respondents), stand density (22% of respondents), and water table depth (17% of respondents), and erosion (17% of respondents).

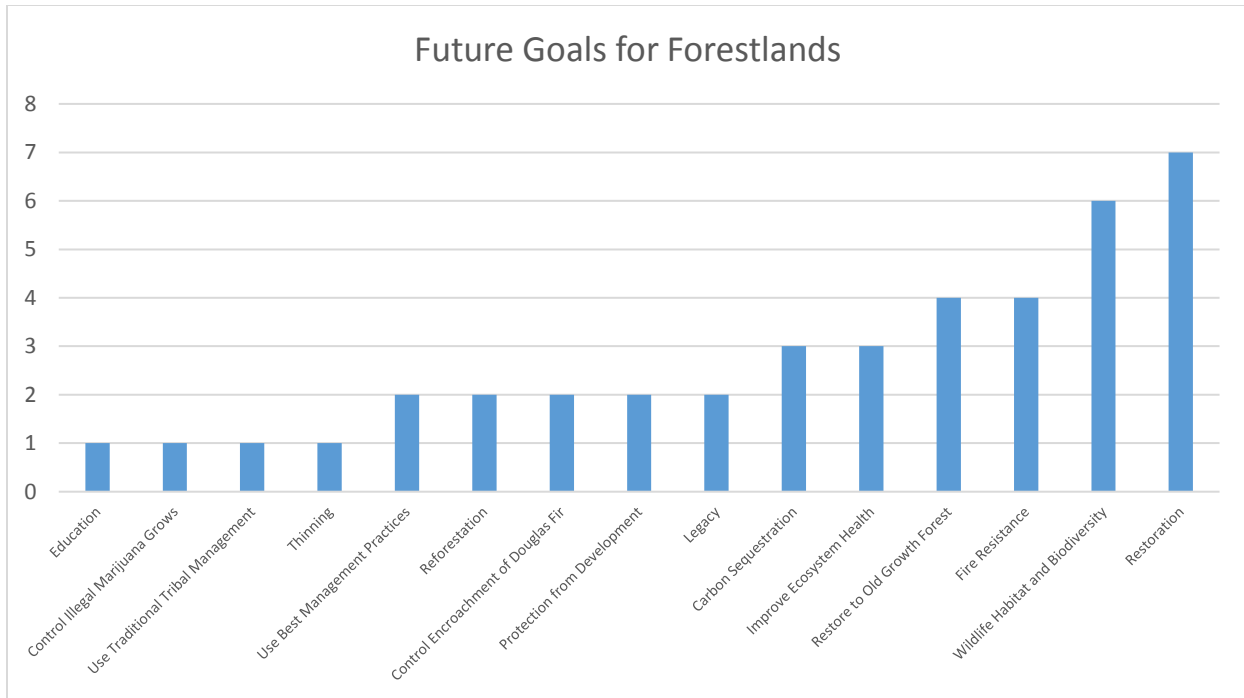
Zero survey participants answered the question of what they will measure in the future.



Question 8: What is your goal(s) for your forestland for the future?

Survey responses show that the top six future goals for forestlands for land managers and landowners are Restoration Projects (17%), Increasing Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity (15%), Fire Resistance (10%), Restoring Forests to Old Growth Stands (10%), Improving Ecosystem Health (7%), and Carbon Sequestration (7%).

Other goals include leaving a legacy, protection from development, controlling encroachment of douglas fir, reforestation, use of best management practices, thinning, use of traditional tribal management, controlling illegal cannabis grows, and education.



Question 9: What forest related topics would you like to learn more about at our next brownbag lunch?

Of 24 responses there were 19 different suggestions. However, the forest related topics that gained the most interest for future brownbag and community outreach seminars are Prescribed Burns/Wildlife Protection (3 respondents), Forest Hydrology (2 respondents), How to Utilize Agencies and Nonprofits (2 respondents), Implementing Large Scale Thinning in Sonoma County (2 respondents), and How to Have Stronger Collaboration with Neighbors (2 respondents).

Other topic suggestions (each noted once) were Policy, Climate Change, Non-Timber Forest Products, How to Manage Dead/Dying Trees, Vineyard Development, Traditional Tribal Management, Careers in Forestry and Natural Resource Management, Conservation and Management of Understory Flora, Oak Woodland Management, Large Scale Protection of Forestlands in Sonoma County, and Preventing Erosion on Forestlands.

The above noted topics of interest for future brownbag and community outreach seminars, correspond to Sonoma County watersheds as follows:

- Lower Russian River
 - Traditional Tribal Management (1 respondent)
- Laguna de Santa Rosa
 - Climate change (1 respondent)
 - Conservation and Management of Understory Flora (1 respondent)
- Gualala River
 - How to utilize agencies and nonprofits (2 respondents)
 - Forest hydrology (1 respondent)

- Salmon Creek
 - How to have stronger collaboration with neighbors (1 respondent)
 - Large scale protection of forestlands in Sonoma County (1 respondent)
 - Careers in forestry and natural resource management (1 respondent)
- Mark West Creek
 - Oak woodland management (1 respondent)
- Sonoma Creek
 - Forest hydrology (1 respondent)
 - Policy (1 respondent)
- Dutch Bill Creek
 - Prescribed burns/Wildfire protection (1 respondent)
- Dry Creek
 - Implementing large-scale thinning in Sonoma County (1 respondent)
- Middle Russian
 - Prescribed burns/Wildfire protection (1 respondent)

The low number of respondents noted for each topic of interest as it corresponds to specific watersheds provides minimal indication and too small a sample size to target education and outreach efforts in specific geographical areas with specific topics. The survey responses, however, do indicate that the most requested brownbag/seminar topics are:

1. Prescribed Burns/Wildlife Protection
2. Forest Hydrology
3. How to Utilize Agencies and Nonprofits
4. Implementing Large Scale Thinning in Sonoma County
5. How to Have Stronger Collaboration with Neighbors