

## 2023 Monitoring Report for High Conservation Value Forests

Monitoring of the effectiveness of measures to maintain or enhance High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) occurred as described under Section 5, 6 and 7 of the Forest Management Plan. As a result, the HCVFs are monitored throughout the year. A summary of the process follows:

Every THP that is submitted has a Request for Resource Input (RRI). Therefore, every THP is reviewed by the Conservation Planning Department (CPD) to identify presence of any rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) species, presence of habitat for those species, and presence of HCVF in or near the project area (defined by the Cumulative Impacts Assessment Area in the timber harvest plan).

The presence of HCVFs is also assessed by the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) during the initial stages of plan development before and after the RRI is sent to CPD personnel. So, there are two initial checks in the system for identifying HCVFs around areas of proposed harvest activity. When an HCVF is identified, the measures outlined in the Forest Management Plan (Section 6.8) are applied for each individual type of HCVF. Those measures may be incorporated into the THP or excluded from operational areas. If the measures are part of the THP, CalFire will enforce the THP and any potential errors in operation under the permit could result in a violation from CalFire. CalFire personnel actively inspect THPs on a regular basis. Also, management activities conducted near (generally within 0.25 miles) any of the murrelet occupied old growth stands would occur through consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that is also enforced under the THP process.

Additionally, some HCVFs are monitored and reported within the Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (FHCP) reporting. In addition, the Forest Resources Information System (FRIS) annually depletes the forest inventory and updates harvested areas using post-harvest aerial photography. Activity in a HCVF would be identified through this process. Monitoring of HCVF areas and acres is also conducted during the annual reporting process for Forest Stewardship Council® certification.

During routine assessment in 2019, Green Diamond's botany group identified a unique tan oak stand in our Smith River tract. This ridgetop forest consisted of mature tanoak with solitary large diameter Douglas fir and redwood. Interestingly, there were no stumps observed at the site and no indication of previous timber harvest activity. Subsequent historic air photo review indicated that the ridgeline was never logged during the initial entry in the 1950s. While tan oak is not an unusual species in this tract, contiguous tan oak dominated forests are uncommon. While the overall stand history is unknown it clearly predates the first timber harvest entries. Green Diamond recognizes the importance of naturally occurring tanoak forests and added the 80-acre stand to its HCVF tan oak GIS layer for protection.

In 2022, approximately 200 acres of HCVF oak woodland and adjacent HCVF grasslands were identified to be restored and enhanced through the manual removal of small diameter encroaching conifers as part of Green Diamond's Private Land Management (PLM) Program. In 2023, 70 acres of those HCVF areas were maintained, restored, and enhanced by removing conifers. In certain areas near existing HCVF that have a mix true oaks and conifers, Green Diamond has applied recently created Forest Practice Rules that allow the removal of larger conifers from true oak stands without the requirement to

restock the harvested area. In 2019/2020, approximately 27 acres of oak woodland special treatment zone (STZ) were put under harvest plan and 4 acres were completed in 2021. The remaining 23 acres are planned to be completed in 2024. Under-represented successional stages were maintained or enhanced as outlined in the Forest Management Plan (Section 6).

In 2022, Green Diamond entered a contract with CAL FIRE to conduct prescribed burning in the Bald Hills area, specific to Williams Ridge, which is permitted under CAL FIRE's vegetation management program (VMP). This contract and permit are valid for a ten-year period and intend to add prescribed fire as a restoration tool for HCVF oak woodlands and prairies. Under the Vegetation Management Program, CAL FIRE assumes all liability for prescribed fire operations and Green Diamond works as a partner to share costs and resources. Although no prescribed burning occurred in the Bald Hills area in 2023, Green Diamond continues to coordinate with CalFire with hopes to burn in 2024.

In 2015, the California Department of General Services (DGS) and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) approached Green Diamond Resource Co asking permission to investigate potential telecommunication tower sites on the property to replace the existing tower located on US Forest Service lands on Red Mountain in the Klamath area. The Red Mountain area is being returned to the Yurok Tribe who have indicated that they will not renew leases on Red Mountain. Planned decommissioning of the communication tower on Red Mountain was scheduled for 2021 but has yet to occur due to delays in the project timeline. The telecommunication tower on Red Mountain holds all the emergency service communications for the area and links to the state-wide system for state and federal agencies. After thorough analysis, a site was chosen on GDRCo property on Rattlesnake Ridge which is located within an HCVF and in a designated Humboldt marten reserve area within the Safe Harbor Agreement between GDRCo and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). DGS completed an Environmental Impact Report in 2018 and negotiated with DFW and CAL FIRE to comply with all environmental laws, regulations and GDRCo agreements with State and Federal agencies in order to construct 1.2 miles of road and a two-acre site for the telecommunications tower. GDRCo was a willing participant through this process as an alternative to the likely use of eminent domain by the State given the threat to emergency communications and lack of any other potential site to replace the coverage of the existing tower. Presently site clearing, road building and rocking, and tower pad rocking have all been completed. Construction of the tower is expected in 2024 through 2025. Pete Jackson, VP/GM, is acting as liaison to DGS and OES.