

4.3 Forest Health and Potential Concerns

Forest Unit #2 represents a healthy, natural, diverse ecosystem of many varieties of trees, shrubs, plants, and wildlife. There are areas of overcrowding of trees and shrubs, with much debris on the ground in certain areas that could contribute fuel to a potential fire. Specific concerns are:

- **Insect and disease Infestations** -- Continued monitoring and vigilance is required for the Forest Unit #2 to ensure any insect or disease infestation can be quickly contained and eradicated by professionals.
- **Invasive Plant Species** - Continued monitoring and vigilance is required for Forest Unit #2 as there are already areas of English Ivy, Scotch Broom and other undesirable species in and near the area. Selective removal of invasive plant species will be undertaken to maintain the health of the forest.
- **Wildlife Damage** - Little wildlife damage is seen or expected in Forest Unit#2, with the possible exception of woodpeckers. No mitigation steps are currently planned.
- **Storm Damage** - High winds and strong winter storms are common to the central Oregon coast, and will continue to impact Forest Unit #2 in terms of downed trees, limbs and branches. In most cases, the materials will be allowed to remain where they fall unless blocking an approved pathway or constituting a fire hazard.
- **Wildfire Fuels** (size(s) and whether they form "ladder fuels")-A recent walkthrough with an Oregon State Forester pointed out a relatively high risk of fire potential given the size, type and amounts of wildfire fuels dispersed through Forest Unit #2 .A community-wide effort is required to help address this situation.
- **Drought** - While typical annual precipitation amounts usually keep the coastal forests green, periods of drought are not uncommon to the central Oregon coast. Extra care must be taken during these periods of little-to-no rain to ensure no fires or sparks of any kind are allowed in Forest Unit #2.
- **Trespassers** - Forest Unit #2 is bounded on the east by Hwy 101 and the south by Oceana St. There is a hiking path along Hwy 101which could offer an ingress route to trespassers, despite private property signs posted along the eastern border. In order to help keep trespassers from hiking or camping in Forest Unit #2, we will consider construction of natural barriers, such as randomly placed and secured tree limbs and large branches.
- **Landslide Risk** - There is no landslide risk in Forest Unit #2



4.4 Forest Management Objectives

4.4.1 Aesthetics/Recreation

We will maintain Forest Unit #2 in a natural state for residents to enjoy as a quiet area within LWC, with interesting trees, understory and wildlife observed from a unique combination of low impact, elevated boardwalks and asphalt trails. The maintenance model shall be one of a low use national park in a heavily forested area, with maintenance focused on the boardwalk and asphalt trails, while removing and repairing any unauthorized trails. Trees are allowed to fall in the forest and remain in place unless obstructing a path to promote a variety of wildlife habitat. We will organize annual clean-up events to pick up some debris that adds to the fire fuel risk. The forest itself will be allowed to evolve with a minimum amount of human intervention, as its canopy changes and some species thrive while others die out. Replanting will only be considered after unusual storm damage or other man made issues.

4.4.2 Forest Health

The overall objective is to maintain the health of Forest Unit #2 with minimal intervention, as further described in the above section. Volunteers are needed at certain times of the year to provide regular watering of seedlings in the ODOT disturbed area/Hwy 101 boundary, and the FMC will investigate temporary use of a drip irrigation system.

4.4.3 Managing Forest Structure

No trees will be cut to open vistas from the cinder cone or any pathway. No additional trails/pathways are needed or recommended at this time.

4.4.4 Wildfire Fuels Management

We will begin a community- wide volunteer clean-up program of downed limbs and branches, as well as reducing some of the obvious ladder fuels throughout the Forest Unit #2. The first priority should be the ODOT slash debris along Hwy 101 to mitigate against potential fire risk from sparks thrown or caused by vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

4.5 Specific Goals (SG) – Forest Unit #2

SG-FU#2 – 1 Maintain as a natural area for residents to enjoy as a quiet area within LWC, with interesting trees and unique walking paths. No trees will be cut to open vistas from the cinder cone gazebo or any other pathway.



SG-FU#2 – 2 This area should have a diversity of trees and plants, evolving naturally with minimal human intervention as its canopy changes, with some species surviving and others dying out. Selective removal of invasive species and heavy areas of fire fuel are permitted.

SG-FU#2 – 3 Develop a Fire Management Plan for this Unit.

SG-FU#2 – 4 Ensure no unauthorized access or pathways from either the Highway 101 or Oceania Street boundaries.

4.6 Specific Objectives (SO) – Forest Unit #2

SO-FU#2 – 1 Replant where necessary to preserve the natural forest aesthetic along the forest boundaries, including after storm damage or man-made issues. Repair the ODOT scar area where practical to restore vegetation boundary along Highway 101 and reduce traffic noise on the trail system.

SO-FU#2 – 2 Mitigate excess ground and ladder fuels in areas most susceptible to ignition – along Highway 101, along paths and boardwalks, and near boundary with Oceania housing, especially near the cinder cone due to slope and vegetation that could ignite the forest crown.

SO-FU#2 – 3 Provide a practical fire boundary where possible along the eastern (Hwy 101) and southern (Oceania St.) boundaries of this unit. Reduce fire danger where appropriate in areas close to residential units.

SO-FU#2 – 4 Identify and plant additional wildlife-friendly vegetation around pathways to attract wildlife.

SO-FU#2 – 5 Remove invasive species at the boundaries and within this unit.

SO-FU#2 – 6 Allow trees to fall within the forest, removing wood and debris only when necessary to keep pathways clear or reduce fire fuels load.

SO-FU#2 – 7 Discourage public access along outer boundaries by maintaining plantings and natural barriers that inhibit foot traffic.

SO-FU#2 – 8 Remove and repair any unauthorized pathways with construction of natural barriers, such as randomly placed tree limbs and branches.



5 FOREST UNIT #3 – NATURAL FOREST NORTH

5.1 LWC Tract #3 – Aerial Photo

LWC tract #3

natural forest north



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5.1.1 Location

That area generally bounded by Singing Tree and Walking Wood cul-de-sac to the south, Highway 101 and LWC Tract D to the east, LWC development boundary to the north, and the Innisfree area to the west.

5.1.2 Tax Lots

*09-11-08-CC-00129-00 3.73 acres est.
*This tax lot is actually estimated at 5.73 acres but an estimated 2 acres of random forested area surrounding the north Walking Wood cul-de-sac to Meadow Lane is added to Unit #4 Interior Forest 09-11-08-CD-00300-00 10.56 acres est.

5.1.3 Size – 14.29 acres

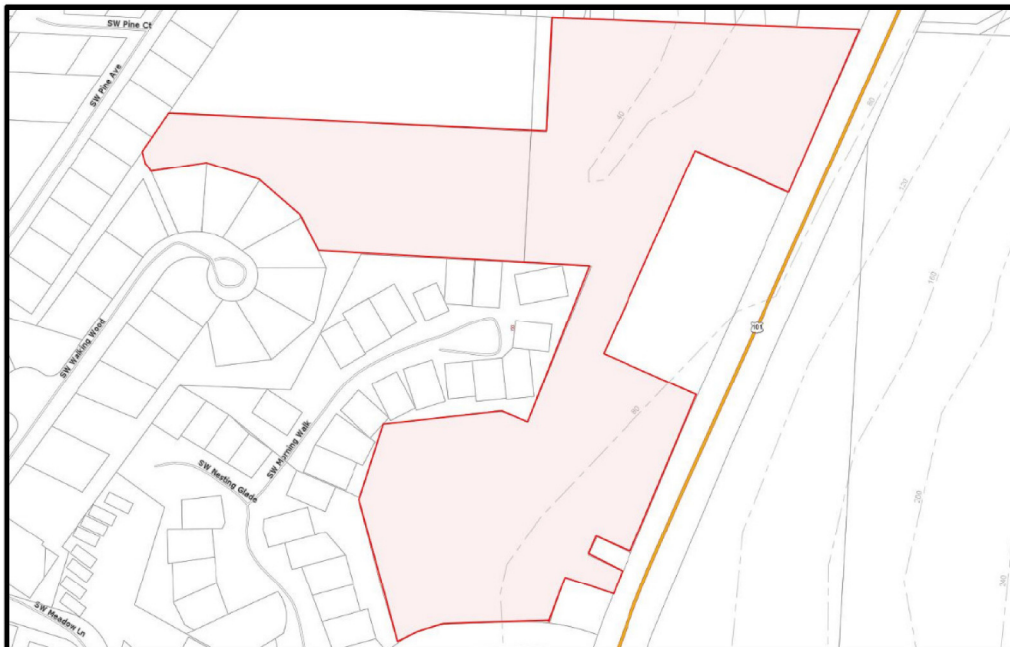


5.1.4 Description

An undeveloped natural mixed forest area in the northeastern area of the LWC development. Mixed age forest of Western Red Cedar, Sitka Spruce, and Western Hemlock, with Alder and some Shore Pine. There are areas of mature forest with large trees in northern and eastern areas, and large wetland/riparian area in the south central area. A small stream flows through the northeastern area and exits on the north boundary. The unit's continuity is broken by the gatehouse lot, Tract D which is privately owned and scheduled for development, a small utility lot belonging to the City of Depoe Bay, and a maintenance area and associated roadway located between the gatehouse and Innisfree. The area south of the maintenance area to Singing Tree is mosaic wetlands (40% wetland/60% riparian) and is covered with thick stands of Twin berry, invasive Himalayan Blackberry, grasses, and smaller deciduous trees. Invasive English Ivy is present throughout the unit, but is heavily concentrated near and north of the gatehouse. The area north of Tract D has limited access and may be in danger of debris slides due to the build-up of fill material on Tract D. This area is developing mature forest characteristics, with mature trees and limited understory.

5.2 LWC Tract #3 – Map

LWC tract #3 natural forest north



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5.3 Forest Health and Potential Concerns

Forest Unit #3 represents a healthy, natural, diverse ecosystem of many varieties of trees, shrubs, plants, mosaic wetlands and wildlife. There are areas of overcrowding of trees and shrubs, with much debris on the ground in certain areas that could contribute fuel to a potential fire. Specific concerns are:

- **Insect and disease Infestations** -- Continued monitoring and vigilance is required for the Forest Unit #3 to ensure any insect or disease infestation can be quickly contained and eradicated by professionals.
- **Invasive Plant Species** - Continued monitoring and vigilance is required for Forest Unit #3 as there are already areas of English Ivy, Scotch Broom and other undesirable species in and near the area. Selective removal of invasive plant species will be undertaken to maintain the health of the forest.
- **Wildlife Damage** - Little wildlife damage is seen or expected in Forest Unit #3. No mitigation steps are currently planned.
- **Storm Damage** - High winds and strong winter storms are common to the central Oregon coast, and will continue to impact Forest Unit #3 in terms of downed trees, limbs and branches. In most cases, the materials will be allowed to remain where they fall unless blocking an approved pathway or constituting a fire hazard.
- **Mosaic Wetlands** - There is an area classified as mosaic wetlands covering an area of 4+ acres on this unit that is currently overgrown and inaccessible. It is desirable to open up this unique habitat with a natural trail while preserving the wetlands characteristics.
- **Wildfire Fuels** – (size(s) and whether they for “ladder fuels”) – A recent walkthrough with an Oregon State Forester pointed out a risk of fire potential given the size, type and amounts of wildfire fuels dispersed through Forest Unit #3. A community-wide effort is required to help address this situation.
- **Drought** – While typical annual precipitation amounts usually keep the coast forests green, periods of drought are not uncommon to the central Oregon coast. Extra care must be taken during these periods of little-to-no rain to ensure no fires or sparks of any kind are allowed in Forest Unit #3.
- **Trespassers** – Forest Unit #3 is bounded on the east by Highway 101 and Tract D. There is a hiking path along Highway 101 which could offer an ingress route to trespassers, despite private property signs posted along the eastern border. Once construction begins on Tract D, there is an increased risk of trespassers from this area. In order to help keep trespassers from hiking or camping in Forest Unit #3, we will consider construction of natural barriers,



such as randomly placed and secured tree limbs and large branches.

- **Landslide Risk** – There is no landslide risk in Forest Unit #3.

5.4 Forest Management Objectives

5.4.1 Aesthetics/Recreation

We will maintain Forest Unit #3 in a natural state for residents to enjoy as a quiet area within LWC, with interesting trees, understory and wildlife observed from a natural-materials trails. The maintenance model shall be one a step above Forest Unit #2, since this area has been neglected in the past and allowed to become overgrown and inaccessible to residents.

Maintenance will be focused on creating one or more trails, and planting additional screening trees and shrubs near Tract D and Hwy 101. Trees are allowed to fall in the forest and remain in place unless obstructing a path to promote a variety of wildlife habitat. We will organize annual clean-up events to pick up some debris that adds to the fire fuel risk, as well as removing the rampant English Ivy, Scotch Broom and other invasive species. The forest itself will be allowed to evolve with a small amount of human intervention.

5.4.2 Forest Health

The overall objective is to maintain the health of Forest Unit #3 with some intervention (i.e., planting), as further described in the above section.

5.4.3 Managing Forest Structure

No trees will be cut to open vistas from any pathway. Additional plantings of trees and shrubs will be carried out to enhance privacy from Tract D and Hwy 101. Creating a small nursery will also be encouraged to raise seedlings for this and other areas of LWC.

5.4.4 Wildfire Fuels Management

We will begin a community-wide volunteer clean-up program of downed limbs and branches, as well as reducing some of the obvious ladder fuels throughout the Forest Unit #3.

5.5 Specific Goals (SG) – Forest Unit #3

SG-FU#3 – 1 Monitor forest health and manage for aesthetics, safety and privacy.



- SG-FU#3 – 2** Provide a sound, sight and public access barrier to Hwy 101, Tract D, and areas to the north of this unit.
- SG-FU#3 - 3** Monitor and preserve existing wetlands on North end of this unit.
- SG-FU#3 - 4** Develop a fire management plan for this unit.
- SG-FU#3 – 5** Develop use plan for south end of unit including LWC Maintenance Yard.

5.6 Specific Objectives (SO) – Forest Unit #3

SO-FU#3 – 1 Establish fire wise vegetation barrier (trees and shrubs) between Innisfree and Tract D. Plantings may be relatively close to residences to maximize effectiveness.

SO-FU#3 – 2 Remove invasive species along the boundaries (e.g., Scotch Broom), and within this unit (e.g., English Ivy) to prevent spread to other areas of the community.

SO-FU#3 – 3 Discourage public traffic through this area by maintaining plantings that inhibit foot traffic, are fast growing to repair openings, and low maintenance . These plantings should be closer to the perimeter boundaries (e.g., Hwy 101, Tract D, and Northern boundary).

SO-FU#3 – 4 Maintain the mosaic (40% wet/60% riparian) wetlands in a natural yet accessible state, creating a nature trail for homeowners to enjoy this distinct habitat within LWC.

SO-FU#3 – 5 Create a tree farm in an appropriate area whereby seedlings removed from one area can be grown and replanted throughout the development over time. Slash must be reduced and competing vegetation removed and continuously managed through mechanical, chemical or manual methods.



6 FOREST UNIT #4 – INTERIOR RESIDENTIAL

6.1 LWC Tract #4 – Aerial Photo

LWC tract #4

interior residential forests



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6.1.1 Location

This unit is in the middle of the LWC Forest and is surrounded by the North and South, Coastal, and Innisfree units. It is generally bounded by Walking Wood to the west, and Innisfree units and residential lots on The Pines, Tintinnabulary, Gull Station, Cormorant, and Walking Wood, on the north, east, and south.



6.1.2 Tax Lots

09-11-17-BB-04100-00	4.03 acres (common area south of REC center)
09-11-17-BB-00117-00	3.70 acres (common area north of REC center)
09-11-17-BB-90000-00	3 acres est. (common area Pines condos)
09-11-17-BB-01300-00	1.05 acres (common around Pines platted lots)
09-11-08-CC-90000 -00	.5 acres est. (common around Meadow Houses condos)
*09-11-17-BC-07600-00	.41 acres est. *(that portion of Unit #1 Coastal tax lot north of Walking Wood and Midden Reach)
*09-11-17-BB-02400-00	.62 acres est. *(that portion of Unit #2 South Forest tax lot located adjacent to Tintinnabulary and Singing Tree)
*09-11-08-CC-00129-00	2 acres est. *(that portion of Unit #3 North Forest tax lot located south of Walking Wood cul-de-sac terminus and west of Innisfree)

6.1.3 Size – 15.31 acres

6.1.4 Description

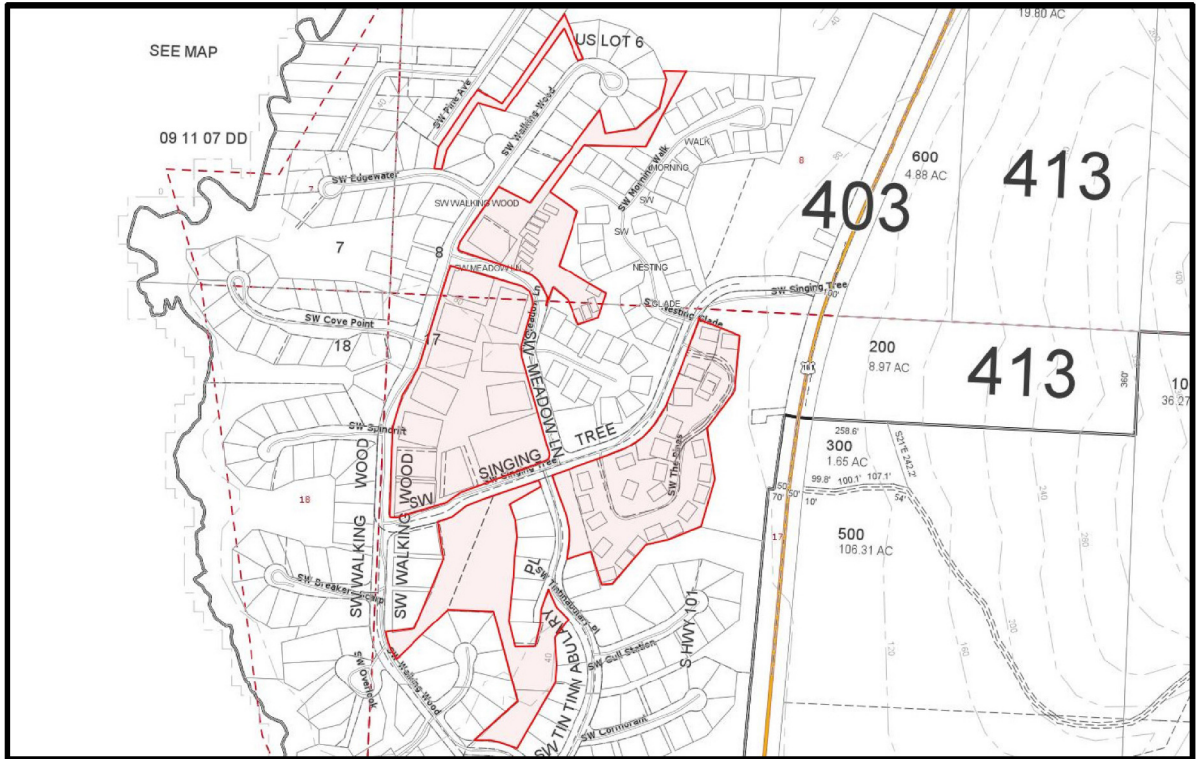
Miscellaneous forested areas scattered throughout the interior of Little Whale Cove. Mixed stands of varying sized Sitka Spruce, Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar, Shore Pine, and Alder are found adjacent to residential lots, along drainages, and in development common areas. The largest forest areas are immediately south and north of the Rec Center. The southern area features older mixed conifers on the peripheries with concentrations of mature Alders in the center section, which developed following the installation of utility infrastructure in the 1970's. A dense understory of Elderberry, Salmon berry, Salal, Huckleberry, and Fern occurs in this area. North of the Rec Center, scattered old conifers are found. Scattered infestations of English Ivy along with some Himalayan Blackberry and English Holly are found in many of the individual tracts.



6.2 LWC Tract #4 – Map

LWC tract #4

interior residential forests



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6.3 Forest Health and Potential Concerns

Forest Unit #4 represents the most complicated area in LWC, due to the proximity of residences, undeveloped lots, and a diverse ecosystem of many varieties of trees, shrubs, and plants. There are areas of overcrowding of trees and shrubs, with some debris on the ground in certain areas that could contribute fuel -to a potential fire. Specific concerns are:

- **Invasive Plant Species** - Continued monitoring and vigilance is required for Forest Unit #4 as there are already large areas of English Ivy and other undesirable species in and near the area. Selective removal of invasive plant species will be undertaken to maintain the health of the forest.
- **Wildlife Damage** - Little wildlife damage is seen or expected in Forest Unit #4, with the possible exception of woodpeckers. No mitigation steps are currently planned.



- **Storm Damage** - High winds and strong winter storms are common to the central Oregon coast, and will continue to impact Forest Unit #4 in terms of downed trees, limbs and branches. In most cases, the materials will be allowed to remain where they fall unless blocking an approved pathway or constituting a fire hazard.
- **Wildfire Fuels** (size(s) and whether they form "ladder fuels") - With the close proximity of residences to the forest, wildfire fuels are a major concern throughout this area, both on private land and common area. A community- wide effort is required to help address this situation.
- **Drought** - While typical annual precipitation amounts usually keep the coastal forests green, periods of drought are not uncommon to the central Oregon coast. Extra care must be taken during these periods of little-to-no rain to ensure no fires or sparks of any kind are allowed in Forest Unit #4.
- **Trespassers** - Forest Unit #4 is an internal area of LWC with little risk of trespassers.
- **Landslide Risk** - There is no landslide risk in Forest Unit #4.

6.4 Forest Management Objectives

6.4.1 Aesthetics/Recreation

We will actively maintain Forest Unit #4 in a "natural" state for residents to enjoy as a transit network of trails within LWC, with interesting trees, understory and wildlife observed from asphalt trails. The maintenance model shall be one of a regularly accessed urban forest, focused on tree and shrub maintenance and the asphalt trails. Trees will be regularly monitored for health and safety, with selective thinning and replanting. We will organize annual clean-up events to both remove invasive species and pick up some debris that adds to the fire fuel risk. The forest itself will be more actively managed with some test areas establish to try opening up the canopy to additional light, replacing mature Alder stands, etc.

6.4.2 Forest Health

The overall objective is to maintain the health of Forest Unit #4 with active management, as further described in the above section.

6.4.3 Managing Forest Structure

Test areas will be established to try different combinations of stand density, light, privacy plantings and other native species.



6.4.4 Wildfire Fuels Management

We will begin a community- wide volunteer clean-up program of downed limbs and branches, as well as reducing some of the obvious ladder fuels, particularly near residences, throughout the Forest Unit #4.

6.5 Specific Goals (SG) – Forest Unit #4

SG-FU#4 – 1 Maintain an open forested aesthetic along pathways and common areas, while selectively opening up portions of this interior space to more sunlight.

SG-FU#4 – 2 Encourage increased path use in this "wind-protected" area during the winter months by increasing sun light access and providing bench rest areas where appropriate.

SG-FU#4 - 3 Develop a fire management plan specific to this area.

6.6 Specific Objectives (SO) – Forest Unit #4

SO-FU#4 - 1 Designate small area (not more than 1,000 square feet total, dimensions TBD) near the maintenance shop as a test area for forest floor clearing and replanting. This could be done after deciduous annuals have dropped leaves to get a picture of visibility of conifers only. Public comments will be solicited and a final plan implemented.

SO-FU#4 - 2 Replant areas of mature Alder stands with native deciduous trees to maintain forest presence as Alders fail.

SO-FU#4 - 3 Eliminate invasive species (primarily Ivy) posing ground and ladder fuel threats.

SO-FU#4 - 4 Provide homeowners with low maintenance planting guidelines for privacy barriers adjacent to pathways when requested. These plantings are preferred on private land, but may be implemented on adjacent common area when reviewed and approved by the LWC Management.

SO-FU#4 – 5 Reduce tree and shrub density in selected areas to allow more sun light during winter months, while perhaps providing additional paths and/or benches.

SO-FU#4 - 6 Reduce fire risk in areas close to residential units. Use portions of this area to provide a natural fire break (with reduced combustibles) within the community if practical.



SO-FU#4 - 7 Develop a plan that periodically introduces new material and selectively removes larger trees and shrubs to maintain the open forested aesthetic. This plan must include both common and private land boundary areas. This area should be more actively managed than the other three forest units in LWC.

SO-FU#4 – 8 Long term, transition from deciduous shrubbery to species which retain their green leaves all year around.

7 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Forest Management of the Community will apply Integrated Pest Management when addressing animal control, vegetation control, insect and disease outbreaks, invasive species and other pests affecting the forest's ability to achieve the Association's forest management goals and objectives or otherwise threaten neighboring forest or landscape forest health.

Specifically, the Association will take the necessary steps to:

- Identify and implement silvicultural and other forest management actions that prevent the establishment of pests and associated damage;
- Develop and carry out a plan for periodically monitoring the forest for pests and pest damage from animals, insect and diseases and invasive species - especially invasive plants;
- Set thresholds for pest tolerance based on stand objectives so as to avoid taking control action against pests that are at levels below thresholds that meet objectives;
- Identify treatment options - mechanical and silviculture - that when used lower the amount of pesticide use necessary to achieve control;
- Flag those management actions that are part of an Integrated Pest Management strategy for controlling a particular pest;
- Implement aggressive Integrated Pest Management control treatments as the need arises.

8 WILDFIRE PROTECTION

8.1 History of Wildland Fire on the Oregon Coast

Historically, the frequency and severity of wildfires in forests differed based on 1) the type of plants in that forest and 2) the climate where the forest was located. In the Pacific Northwest there are two main types of forest: wet and dry.

Wet forests, located along the western coast of Oregon and Washington, have dense forests, tall trees, and shady, we understories. Because wet forests are so productive, they often contain lots of leaf litter, branches, shrubs, and small trees that can act as fuel for fire.

Because these forests are located in a cool, we climate, they are very productive. Historically, wet forests id not burn very often, only about once every 80 – 500 years. When fires did occur in wet forests, they burned in a mosaic pattern often leaving large areas of



forest burned by severe fire and other areas unharmed. Fires in wet forests are low frequency/high intensity in nature.

Dry Forests, located to the east of the Cascade Range in Oregon and Washington and in southwestern Oregon are naturally less productive due to warmer drier weather. Plants do not grow as quickly in these forests compared to wet forests. Dry forests also experience more natural wildfire ignitions caused by lightning, which in the past led to wildfires about once every 5 – 50 years.

Not only were fires more frequent in dry forests compared to wet forests, but they were also less severe. The frequent wildfires in dry forests burned up the leaves, branches, shrubs, and small trees close to the ground, while larger, older trees often survived the fires. This pattern created dry forests dominated by widely spaced trees and open canopies, keeping extra plant fuel low and limiting severe, out of control fire. Wildfires in dry forests are considered to be high frequency/low intensity in nature.

Fire suppression in wet forests has reduced the amount of non-forested areas, such as meadows, and young, diverse forest. Wet forests no longer exhibit the historical mosaic of tree stands created by infrequent, severe fire.

In dry forests, fire suppression has led to overcrowding by small trees and bushes, leaving lots of leaves and branches littering the ground. Having a heavier load of fuel on the ground only feeds fires, it also endangers larger trees that would normally be fire-resistant. Small trees and shrubs can act as fire “ladders,” spreading fire to the canopies of larger trees that would otherwise have been unharmed by fire on the ground. Such dense fuel conditions, along with warming climate and drought, pose the risk of severe, out-of-control wildfire is very high.

8.2 Potential Fire Threat Scenarios for LWC.

- The Coast Range – East of Highway 101
Large number of logging areas and privately held property with heavy equipment use, some public access, and a history of significant fire, such as the Tillamook Burn and the Depoe Bay fire both occurring in the 1930’s.
- Falling Embers from Large Wildland Fires
Research around wildfire spread and home destruction vs. home and forest survival point to ember and small flames is the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile or more through the wind and can cause spot fires and can ignite homes, debris, and other objects.
- Human caused fire from discarded material or campfires along Highway 101 spreading into the ODOT destruction zone (Scar) with potential fire spread into Forest Unit #2.
- Structure fire within Little Whale Cove.
The close spacing of our coastal homes increases the potential, if conditions are right, for fire to spread from one house to the next. Homes with cedar roofs are less fire resistant and vegetation too close to the home can also contribute to fire spread. There is an additional potential threat from a fire originating from South Point (north of LWC) and from Oceania (south of LWC).



- Potential fire threat and spread from open fires, camp fires, and outdoor gas heaters and fire pits.

8.3 Fire Mitigation and Risk Reduction

The purpose of this Fire Risk Mitigation Plan (FRMP) is to identify fire potential and to develop a plan to reduce risk in both the long and short term. Wildland fires have grown in size, intensity, and frequency over the last 20 – 30 years. This has caused many undesirable changes in the composition and structure (age and size) of forest vegetation. One of the primary factors responsible for the increased size, intensity, and severity of wildfires is fire exclusion in all fire-adapted ecosystems, which has led to uncharacteristically high fuel loadings in those ecosystems.

ECOSYSTEM – is a large community of living organisms (plants, animals, microbes) in a particular area. The living and physical components are linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows. Ecosystems are of any size, but usually they are in particular places.

The increased size, intensity, and severity of wildfires pose greater threats to human life and property. More people are recreating on and building homes in wildland areas (Wildland Urban Interface) increasing their exposure to naturally ignited wildfires and increasing the risk of abnormally high fire intensity and severity resulting from uncharacteristic changes in vegetation, fuel loading, and fire behavior.

WILDLAND URBAN INTEFACE (WUI) – is a zone of transition between wildland and human development. Communities in the WUI are at risk of intense and severe wildfires and the presence of a WUI is disruptive to the ecology.

8.4 Fire Mitigation and Risk Reduction for LWC

It is recommended that this FRMP mirror the General Goals of *LWC Resolution 19-03 – Forest, Cove & Wetland Management Plan (GG 1-6)* of Little Whale Cove. To Achieve these goals we recommend the following:

- Maintain the natural forest throughout the Community. (FMP – GG-1)
- Leave the native spaces as natural as possible.
- Clear out dead trees and shrubs. DO NOT clear out all undergrowth. Doing so causes the soil to lose its moisture retention, creating an environment for invasive species and making the forest more susceptible to wildfire.
- Thin as needed but with caution. Allow the undergrowth to remain. Thinning can lead to greater stress and should be limited to removing twig trees, dead wood and invasive species.
- Prohibit the removal of fire-resistive native plants.
- Encourage the planting of native deciduous trees and shrubs i.e. Alder, Salmonberry, Elderberry, Red and Green Huckleberry, Fern and Twinberry. They are generally more fire resistant due to a higher moisture content when in leaf, and a lower fuel volume when dormant.



- Removal of invasive species with minimal disruption of the soil to protect from erosion and loss of soil moisture. Replant as necessary with native fire-resistant plants.
- Fuel Reduction: Removal of lighter, fine fuels from the forest floor i.e. small dead branches, leaf litter, and debris. This can be accomplished with scheduled volunteer work parties.
- Identification and reduction of ladder fuels in the forested Common areas.
- Encourage homeowners to remove overhanging branches and to remove underbrush away from all structures a distance of ten (10) feet.

LADDER FUEL(S) or FUEL LADDER(S) – is a firefighting and forestry term for live or dead vegetation that allows a fire to climb up from the landscape or forest floor into the tree canopy, includes tall grasses, shrubs, and tree branches, etc., both living and dead.

8.5 Fire Mitigation and Risk Reduction Forest Unit #1

- Encourage homeowners to cut overhanging limbs back from roof and chimney and to clear underbrush back ten (10) feet from any dwelling, unit or structure.
- Identify and remove ladder fuels.
- Fuel Reduction: Removal of light, fine fire fuels, i.e. small dead branches, leaf litter, and debris.
- Removal of invasive species and replanting with native fire-resistant plants.

8.6 Fire Mitigation and Risk Reduction Forest Unit #2

- Fuel Reduction: Removal of lighter, fine fuel, i.e. dead branches, leaf litter, and other small debris with minimal soil disturbance.
- Identification and reduction of ladder fuels.
- Aggressive removal of invasive species, specifically Scotch Broom.
- ODOT Scar: Removal of lighter fuels, i.e. dead branches, twigs, and small debris. Maintenance of the Coast Trail as a fire break, cutting back the dry grass along the trail during the summer months to reduce the risk of human caused fire spread into Little Whale Cove.
- Additional plantings in the ODOT Scar with native fire-resistant plants.
- All of the above can be accomplished with a community wide volunteer cleanup program.
- Reduce the fire risk in areas close to residential properties by encouraging the planting and maintenance of fire-resistant native deciduous trees and shrubs as a natural fire barrier.

8.7 Fire Mitigation and Risk Reduction Forest Unit #3

- Aggressive removal of Scotch Broom along the Coast Highway (101). Scotch Broom presents a greater fire risk due to its flammability.
- Identification and reduction of ladder fuels.
- Fuel Reduction: Removal of dead branches, leaf litter, and debris with minimal soil disruption.
- Encourage homeowners to trim overhanging branches from roof's and chimneys and to clear underbrush back ten (10) feet from any dwelling, unit or structure.



- Prohibit the planting of and require the removal of all non-native ornamental grasses. These grasses can contribute to fire growth and rapid fire spread.
- Maintain the mosaic wetlands in a natural state. The wetlands, if maintained, provide a natural and effective fire break.
- Establish a fire-resistant or “firewise*” privacy and fire barrier between Innisfree and Tract D utilizing native fire-resistant deciduous trees and shrubs from the Fire-Resistant Plant List, (*Refer to Section 8.10*) and from *Appendix A: Approved PNW, Plants, Trees and Shrubs* as adopted by Little Whale Cove Homeowners Association, Inc.

*Firewise - The Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program empowers neighbors to work together in reducing the wildfire risks around their communities.

8.8 Fire Mitigation and Risk Reduction Forest Unit #4

- Removal of invasive species with minimal soil disruption. Soil disturbance and the removal of deciduous shrubs can cause loss of moisture retention on the forest floor and the introduction of additional invasive species, making the forest more susceptible to wildfire.
- Fuel Reduction: Clearing of dead trees and shrubs, twig trees and other deadwood.
- Identify and reduce ladder fuels.
- Encourage property owners to trim overhanging branches from roof’s and chimneys ad to clear underbrush back from any dwelling, unit or structure at least ten (10) feet.
- Reduce fire risk to residential units by planting a fire barrier using deciduous fire-resistant trees and shrubs. Pacific Rhododendron, Vine Maple, Serviceberry, Red-twig Dogwood, and Alder are examples from the Fire-Resistant Plant List (*Refer to Section 8.10*) and *Appendix A: Approved PNW Plants, Trees and Shrubs* as adopted by the Little Whale Cove Homeowners Association, Inc.

