

**Project Description and Notes pertaining to Segment of the Arcata Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan  
2010 called Arcata Ridge Trail spanning from FH road to the Sunnybrae Tract of the Arcata Community Forest**

Much of the trail will be constructed by converting a former skid road. As such, the project footprint has been disturbed with little understory vegetation remaining. While some underbrush will be removed, vegetation removal will be limited primarily to herbaceous species. No tree removal will occur except for traffic visibility requirements at the Fickle Hill Road crossing area. These young trees may be removed or trimmed to enhance greater visibility and to increase public safety.

The slope varies throughout the span of the trail. The trail will be designed to cross slopes to minimize erosion and provide a more level grade for recreationalists. It will be constructed using State Park *Trails Handbook* standards and with USDA Forest Services Standard Trail Plans and Specifications. Drainage guidelines in the *Handbook for Forest and Ranch Roads* by Pacific Watershed Associates will also be consulted for hydrologic disconnect of trail surfaces from watercourse, springs and wetlands. Construction will be performed with hand tools and no major grading is required.

The project area was scoped with current inventories of the CDFW *California Natural Diversity Database* (CNDDB Rare Find 5, BIOS, and Quick View), California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California* (online edition, v8-03 0.38), and a 2008 botanical survey for Schmidbauer THP #1-08-166HUM. Using CDFW Quick View, City staff performed a 9-quad search, which resulted in 5 amphibians, 32 birds, 8 mammals, and 53 plants. The search was then refined to target list with potential to occur in the project area, which resulted in 3 amphibians, 5 birds, 5 mammals and 19 plants. The target list provided below in Table 1. Of these species only one species of CNPS List 4.1 plants was detected in the project area (Running Pine; *Lycopodium clavatum*). The plant was flagged and mapped by the City and its detection information was submitted to the CNDDB. For amphibians included in the target list, the preferred trail route stays as far away from streams as possible and thus amphibians that are closely tied to stream channels should have no effect on them if present. Additionally, the streams in the project area are marginal at best (lacking rocky splash zones) for species included in the target list. For the bird species included in the target list, all of which were raptors, their calls and nest structures have been listened & looked for while in the field on multiple occasions and were not encountered. Vegetation within the project area could potentially be used for nesting by many common bird species. For the mammal species included in the target list, their habitat preferences were also looked for while in the field. Fishers are known to be in the area and have been detected by the City and submitted to CNDDB, but mustelids are highly mobile and no trees with potential dens were identified and thus should have no effect on denning potential for Fishers or martens.

In addition to botanical and wildlife surveys, annual Northern Spotted Owl surveys with the most current USFWS protocol are conducted in the area (which include and cover the project area) in accordance to the City's NTMP (1-99NTMP-033 HUM). These surveys have been conducted annually in the project area since 2007 and have had no detections of spotted owls. Additionally, no spotted owl detections have been made on the property as per CNDDB.

No discretionary permits are required. The project is located outside of the Coastal Zone and therefore does not require a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission (CCC) or City of Arcata (City). No state or federally listed species are known to exist within the project area or will be

impacted by the project. The project does not involve dredging, filling, or discharging to waters of the US or Waters of the State and is therefore not subject to a Section 404 or 401 Water Quality Certification. It does not alter the stream bed, bank, or channel and is therefore not subject to a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.

A domestic water source is located close to the project. The water source spring and pump houses are open and not locked. The associated spring house, tanks and appurtenant structures have been mapped. The drainage course that leads to the northern most spring intake was mapped as was wet spots in the low summer season and during a heavy rainfall event during the winter trying to estimate the zone of influence from overland flow. City staff a large number of parcel records to find out which property owners have access to the spring. Two public meetings were held at City hall with the mailing list generated by the parcel deed research. The information gathered for the trail project will be pertinent to the NTMP amendment that adds the Schmidbauer tract into the City Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan 1-99-NTMP-033HUM in 2020. The proposed trail route has been adjusted to route as far as possible from the water system as possible. Staff has interfaced with the Ca. Division of Drinking Water to determine that currently the water system does not qualify as a "small community public system". According to the Humboldt County Environmental Health Department the system potentially does fall under the County's authority to monitor and inspect.

The Humboldt County Environmental Health Dept reviewed the project map and provided the following input: *"It appears that you have established adequate safeguards to protect surface water threats to the well or spring box. The applicable regulations are informed by California Well Standards Bulletin 74-81 and Supplement 74-90 which include explicit setback requirements to a variety of contamination sources including items such as barnyard and stable areas, and feedlots, much more intensive land use than the scenario at hand. Pet feces presented during recreational trail use would not pose a significant threat to ground water and we consider **all surface water unpotable without treatment**. Sampling of the water source can always be done by the system operator to confirm this at any time, should concerns linger".*

Staff spoke to Maggie Robinson at the RWQCB regarding prudent domestic water supply protection measure for the trail (RWQCB does not regulate that activity) as well as future timber operations (RWQCB and CAL FIRE regulate that activity).

Measures to protect the water source include:

1. Property line fencing to prevent access to the water system from the public land as well as fencing of the surface water that emerges from hillslope and then goes underground.
2. Signage "Private Property-No public Access" in three locations.
3. Main trail sign "Respect Adjacent Private Property- Stay on the Trail."
4. Routing rail as far to the east and northeast as feasible and parallel to the County road at the top crossing locations.
5. Trailside fencing to prevent shortcircuiting from FH road for the first 190' downhill to the SE.
6. Planting native conifers (redwood and western hemlock) to screen water tanks and interfaces with private properties.

## Trail Operation

ACF trails are open dawn to dusk and are maintained by the City of Arcata Environmental Services Department. No motorized vehicles are allowed. The Arcata Municipal Code and the Arcata Forest Management Plan guide recreational management the ACF. The Arcata Police Dept provides for public safety within the ACF.

Table 1: Botanical and Wildlife Target List

Element_Type	Scientific_Name	Common_Name	Federal_Status	State_Status	CDFW_Status	CA Rare Plant Rank
Amphibians	<i>Ascaphus truei</i>	Pacific tailed frog	None	None	SSC	-
Amphibians	<i>Rana aurora</i>	northern red-legged frog	None	None	SSC	-
Amphibians	<i>Rana boylii</i>	foothill yellow-legged frog	None	Candidate Threatened	SSC	-
Birds	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk	None	None	WL	-
Birds	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	sharp-shinned hawk	None	None	WL	-
Birds	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	Delisted	Endangered	FP	-
Birds	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	osprey	None	None	WL	-
Birds	<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	northern spotted owl	Threatened	Threatened	SSC	-
Mammals	<i>Arborimus pomο</i>	Sonoma tree vole	None	None	SSC	-
Mammals	<i>Martes caurina humboldtensis</i>	Humboldt marten	None	Candidate Endangered	SSC	-
Mammals	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>	fisher - West Coast DPS	None	Threatened	SSC	-
Mammals	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	None	None	SSC	-
Mammals	<i>Myotis evotis</i>	long-eared myotis	None	None	-	-
Plants	<i>Ribes laxiflorum</i>	trailing black currant	None	None	-	4.3
Plants	<i>Erythronium oregonum</i>	giant fawn lily	None	None	-	2B.2
Plants	<i>Erythronium revolutum</i>	coast fawn lily	None	None	-	2B.2
Plants	<i>Lilium kelloggii</i>	Kellogg's lily	None	None	-	4.3
Plants	<i>Lilium occidentale</i>	western lily	Endangered	Endangered	-	1B.1
Plants	<i>Lilium rubescens</i>	redwood lily	None	None	-	4.2
Plants	<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	running-pine	None	None	-	4.1
Plants	<i>Iliamna latibracteata</i>	California globe mallow	None	None	-	1B.2
Plants	<i>Sidalcea malachroides</i>	maple-leaved checkerbloom	None	None	-	4.2
Plants	<i>Sidalcea malviflora ssp. patula</i>	Siskiyou checkerbloom	None	None	-	1B.2
Plants	<i>Sidalcea oregana ssp. eximia</i>	coast checkerbloom	None	None	-	1B.2
Plants	<i>Montia howellii</i>	Howell's montia	None	None	-	2B.2

Plants	<i>Listera cordata</i>	heart-leaved twayblade	None	None	-	4.2
Plants	<i>Piperia candida</i>	white-flowered rein orchid	None	None	-	1B.2
Plants	<i>Pleuropogon refractus</i>	nodding semaphore grass	None	None	-	4.2
Plants	<i>Coptis laciniata</i>	Oregon goldthread	None	None	-	4.2
Plants	<i>Chrysosplenium glechomifolium</i>	Pacific golden saxifrage	None	None	-	4.3
Plants	<i>Mitella stra caulescens</i>	leafy-stemmed mitrewort	None	None	-	4.2
Plants	<i>Tiarella trifoliata</i> var. <i>trifoliata</i>	trifoliate laceflower	None	None	-	3.2



