Project Goals

- Promoting redwood seedlings through stump sprouts.
- Maintaining and improving forest health and fire resiliency.
- Reduce Eucalyptus footprint within project area.
- Adopt/improve trails within the project area.

Forest Health and Fire Resiliency

- Removing some of the less vigorous trees allows the remaining trees to thrive because more sunlight and soil resources are available.
- Management creates more space between trees so wildfires can shift from a crown/canopy fire to a ground fire.
- Work will include treating fuels and logging slash/woody debris along roads and trails for further protection and creates a strategic, defensible location for fire fighters.
- Creating a shaded fuel break, changing the fuel continuity, along Road 500 to promote fire preparedness for the neighboring communities and the Forest.

Eucalyptus Reduction

In 1895, the Caspar Lumber Company planted ~1,000 non-native blue gum eucalyptus were planted as a wind break for the Caspar Orchard. Today, the eucalyptus has spread to ~300 acres, takes resources away from native species, and presents a significant fire hazard. Eucalyptus is difficult to manage due to the stumps quickly re-sprouting after being cut. This project is exploring two treatments:

1. Mechanical thinning – cutting eucalyptus while leaving a denser redwood canopy to shade the stumps.
2. Fire – cutting eucalyptus, piling slash on the stumps, and then burning the piles.
Silviculture

Silviculture is the science of growing and nurturing of trees. The Forester “prescribes” a treatment for each project based on factors such as:
- Wildlife habitat
- Age and growth of the trees
- Past management
- Aesthetics/beautification

The two treatments used in this project are:
- Single tree selection – uniformly removing one tree from all size groups (~35% of the trees).
- Group selection – removing all trees within a specific area (for this project ¼ acre).

Both treatments promote redwood seedlings sprouting from stumps.

Recreation Benefits

This project presents an opportunity for recreation improvements such as:
- Conversion and adoption of “Blue Gum Trail” which includes a multi-use bridge.
- Updated watercourse crossings to reduce sedimentation, erosion and promote safety.
- Trail closures will be minimized where feasible.
- JDSF staff created a bypass trail for continued access to trails outside of the project area.

User built bridges will be replaced with rocked fords to address safety and erosion concerns.