

**Meeting re: "THP Clow", Tuesday Jan 2, 2024, Clow Ridge Road**  
Notes by Bruce Wicinas revised Jan 5.

- 1 Parcel owner Russ Emal, Clow Ridge/Hungry Hollow
- 2 Parcel owner adjacent to harvest area, Jordan Etra, Clow Ridge /Hungry Hollow
- 3 Clint Doucette, Forest Manager with Redwood Empire (Representing the Burch THP)
- 4 Elizabeth Brashers, Parcel owner and president, Clow Ridge Road Group
- 5 Rus Emal's wife
- 6 Todd McMann, NCRM (hired by TCP parcel owners to oversee the project)
- 7 Jamie Pusich, Forester for Val Parik's properties, also with NCRM
- 8 Val Parik, Clow Ridge property owner and owner of one of the parcels in the THP

not shown: Jessie Weaver, Redwood Empire (representing Burch THP)

Also attending, not shown: Tom Spinardi, Road Manager, Nash Ranch Road Assoc

Bruce Wicinas, current board president. Nash Ranch Road Assoc; not among the invited.



**Key points I jotted**

Todd McMann was the principal lecturer.

Redwood Empire expects to spend \$1000/day to sustain the road through the duration of active road use. This is a cost absorbed by them, not fees paid to the road associations. "It is in our (Redwood Empire) interest to minimize the duration of road use."

Expected harvest: 1.5 million board feet, give or take a little. (This figure was reiterated several times.) This translates to 300 truckloads at 5000 bf per load. At 8 loads per day this computes to 37.5 days, approximately two months.

At \$4/mile/1000 bf x 2 miles totals \$12,000 (2 miles along Clow; lower road is an additional mile.)

State rules require the harvest to sustain the proportion of hardwoods to conifers. This is why some hardwoods must be killed by herbicide. If the ratio is 40% hardwood at the start, it must be 40% hardwood at the finish. Many conifers will be removed by the harvest. Hardwoods in proportion must be killed or removed to achieve this figure. (Before humans, the hardwood proportion may have been 10%. But earlier logging ignored this consideration, removing only conifers. This has resulted in the current hardwood proportion of 40-50% in areas previously logged.) "Hack and squirt" is the method for applying herbicide. There is no aerial spraying.

Before logging this land probably supported 100 trees per acre. In areas not recently logged we now see about 400 per acre. This is not a healthy forest and one vulnerable to wildfire. "This logging will improve the quality of this forest."

Russ Emal commented (as I recall): "There is little worth harvesting down there. I don't know why we are here meeting about this."

Tom Spinardi: "Nash Ranch Road Association expects the road condition at conclusion to be equal to or better than at the start." Tom provided budget figures to document what the road association spends year on grading, rocking and Dust off.

There were comments that the lumber market is well down from its peak.

#### **Some comments shared later by e-mail**

Tom Spinardi: "I do not think they can currently estimate the time it will take to log. They mentioned two months and also stated when and how much they log is dependent on the cost of redwood. But more importantly, I do not know if they have hired a logging company yet. They might have a say in how long it will take to log the site"

Bruce: "I am sorry I did not ask, "where are the big trees? where is the creek?" The steadily increasing rain dissuaded us from strolling. The spot at which we convened within the Burch/Parik parcel was uninteresting. Neither large trees nor creek were visible."