

Humboldt County Planning Commission
Humboldt County Courthouse
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, California 95501

October 21, 2009

Dear Commissioners:

By attending numerous Planning Commission sessions and listening to concerned citizens voice their concerns regarding the General plan Update (GPU), we are compelled to submit our concerns regarding the process and its eventual results which will have long lasting effects regarding our family's property located on Liscom Hill near Blue Lake.

The Ford Ranch has been in constant family ownership since the original acreage was homesteaded in 1868. Lawrence Ford, who emigrated from Ireland, purchased from Mike Riley, a fellow Irishman, the first 160 acres, which launched the continuing acquisition toward the present day ranch atop Liscom Hill. The first American born generation had nine children. From that generation, Lawrence Andrew (Larney) Ford (Pam's grandpa and Larney's great-grandfather) worked with his sons Art (Pam's dad and Larney's grandfather) and Ralph to survive the depression of the 1930s.

For many years, the Ford family has continued to successfully manage the ranch with its grazing land, aggregate, and stands of second growth redwood, Douglas fir, and white fir. The grazing area on the home ranch provides ample sustenance for cattle, sheep, and small herds of deer and elk. In recent years, the frequency of elk has increased dramatically. For years, we filed Timber Harvest Plans in order to log various portions of the property. Then, at great expense, we implemented a NTMP and further still, at the recommendation of the County Planning Department, within the last three years, we implemented a JTMP.

As stewards of multi-generational land ownership, we have always adhered to regulations mandated by any governing body. We will do so in the future. However, portions of the GPU if enacted will prove detrimental to what we hold so dear. The ranch ownership is shared by two generations of seventeen individuals. We have structured the ownership to pass smoothly from one generation to another into the future. Most of our timber is zoned TPZ. Thus, Section 4.6 Forest Resources, FR-P9, Plan A is entirely too restrictive. Timber growth will continue regardless of structures on the ground. "Requiring demonstration of active management... on new residential permits" is totally unnecessary. Having read the Merger Ordinance mentioned in Section 4.6, FR-IM4, the implementation of same will be in essence a taking of property. Such a drastic enactment would jeopardize the future stability of the Ford Family's continued viable ownership by removing the flexibility to occasionally market one or more of our patent parcels in order to meet our family's shared objectives.

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

We strongly urge you to choose GPU alternatives that will allow the Ford Family to retain its land with forest and land use rules that enhance ownership rather than remove property rights. For many years we have been conscientious stewards; stakeholders, if you will, of a legacy that we hope will continue into the future.

Thank you for reading and considering our concerns.

Sincerely yours,



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