

How Local Forests Are Managed

The Monterey Pine forest is the largest remaining stand of native trees in the world. Its range incorporates all the Monterey Peninsula from East Monterey to just past Carmel. It has dwindled from an original 15,000 acres to a remaining 3,000 acres. How much will remain after proposed developments and the impacts of fire and other fragmentation take place is not as yet determined.

Foresters representing this area discussed the basics of open space management. These include the protection of native flora and fauna, the removal of non-native invasive plants, the restoration of ecological balance in areas where it has been altered and the protection of natural areas where they now exist. Other key responsibilities include consideration for human safety especially where hazardous conditions occur or where property is threatened.

PBC's forester, Eric Love, pointed out that in addition the overriding objectives that direct his operation are the open forest itself, the 72 miles of roads, the protection of natural resources such as the Huckleberry Hill area, the intensively used areas such as the points of interest

along 17 Mile Drive and the developed areas such as residential lots and the resorts and golf courses.

The single most important document which applies to our forest is the Del Monte Forest Land Use Plan which was prepared and enacted to ensure the protection and enhancement of the overall environment and to balance land uses, public access and government cooperation for future planning and development. The Open Space Advisory Committee, consisting of naturalists and representatives from the Del Monte Forest Foundation, the Del Monte Forest Property Owners and the Pebble Beach Company, identifies environmentally sensitive habitats and makes site specific recommendations for the overall maintenance of the Forest.

Many documents and agencies at all levels of government have set standards for the management of the forest such as environmentally sensitive habitat by the California Fish and Game, the USD Fish and Wildlife Service and water and marine environments by the California Coastal Act. In addition, many county and state regulations govern your Forest.

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