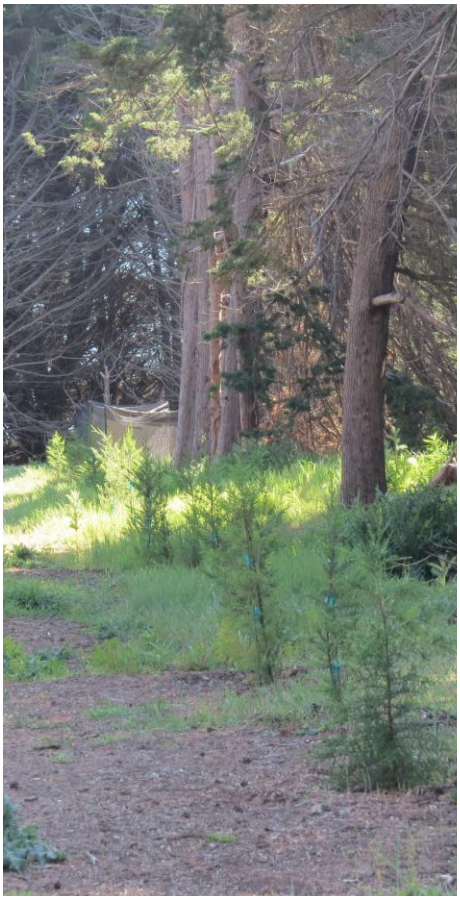
The Sea Ranch

“Signature” Hedgerow Management Plan 2015

An Update to “Signature Hedgerows for the 21st Century, A Plan for Hedgerow Rehabilitation, 2001”



Decline



Renewal



Regeneration

Prepared by the Hedgerow Subcommittee of the Planning Committee

Adopted by the Board of Directors, October 31, 2015

This report and the following GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS have been prepared by members of the current “Signature” Hedgerow subcommittee of the Planning Committee: Nancy Scarola, Dibby Tyler, Elaine Lawson, Perk Perkins, Ray Jackman, Barbara Rice, Linda Lipkin, Rick Hansen, and Jackie Gardener.

As a subcommittee we represent a number of TSR interests with members from the Planning Committee, the original 2001 Hedgerow subcommittee, Commons Landscape Committee, Trails, Native Plants & Biotic Resources, Stewardship, and the Board subcommittee on Vegetation Management.

Bill Weimeyer and John Prescott are our esteemed staff advisors from DCEM and F&R.

Our work these last two years has included:

Meetings:

October 24, 2013
December 5, 2013
February 27, 2014
March 25, 2015
April 22, 2015

Survey Dates:

April 23, 2014
May 28, 2014
June 25, 2014
July 23, 2014
January 28, 2015

Community Outreach:

Trails Committee Nature Walk - August 8, 2015
TSR Forum presentation - May 2, 2015
Soundings Articles - Fall 2014 & Summer 2015
Bulletin Updates
Call for Hedgerow Photos
Planning Committee Website Page
Annual Neighborhood Meeting for scheduled work - Early Fall
Annual Seedling Planting - Late Fall

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to replant and maintain the Monterey cypress hedgerows as a prominent feature of The Sea Ranch landscape.

2. Where adequate commons is available, plant new hedgerows adjacent to the original ones, maintaining the original trees as long as they still retain their beauty and do not threaten the safety of homes or hikers or the health of the new trees.

3. Where adequate commons is not available, remove the original trees and plant a new hedgerow on approximately the same alignment.

4. Replant hedgerow segments in order of the priority recommendations. When replanting only a segment of a larger hedgerow, schedule the remaining segment(s) for replanting within 10 years to keep the trees in the entire hedgerow approximately the same size.

5. Maintain the newly planted hedgerows according to the Hedgerow Maintenance Manual to be developed this year by the Hedgerow subcommittee in consultation with a certified arborist. Items covered will include guidelines for such activities as watering, controlling diseases, replacing any diseased or dead trees,and providing as well as removing wind screens and stakes.

6. Remove secondary trees when they:
    a. overshadow the new trees preventing them from getting adequate sun and light,
    b. are no longer needed to protect the new trees from wind and/or to provide a privacy screen for homes,
    c. intrude on private lots or commons and/or muddy the linear form of the new hedgerow.

7. As new hedgerows grow, refer to a new Hedgerow Monitoring Manual to be developed by the Hedgerow subcommittee for training volunteers to assess maintenance needs and undertake the needed work.

8. Continue to send notices to neighbors and conduct neighborhood meetings before any work involving removal of original hedgerow trees or sizable secondary trees is done.

9. Use the stewardship model and collaborate with the Commons Landscape Committee, the Trails Committee, and others to develop a system so volunteers can coordinate via the Hedgerow subcommittee with TSRA staff to monitor, plan for, and maintain the hedgerows. Refer any proposed changes in the priority schedule or the protocols in the Monitoring and Maintenance Manual back to the hedgerow subcommittee for consideration and updating.

10. Keep the membership informed about the hedgerow replanting program through regular hikes, articles, Forums, and updates on the Planning Committee website page.

11. Increase the Association budget for the hedgerow program to allow for the removal of the original trees as the new hedgerows mature, removal of secondary growth, and more regular maintenance of all the hedgerow trees.

12. Give priority to projects needed to maintain the already-replanted hedgerows before starting on a new hedgerow.

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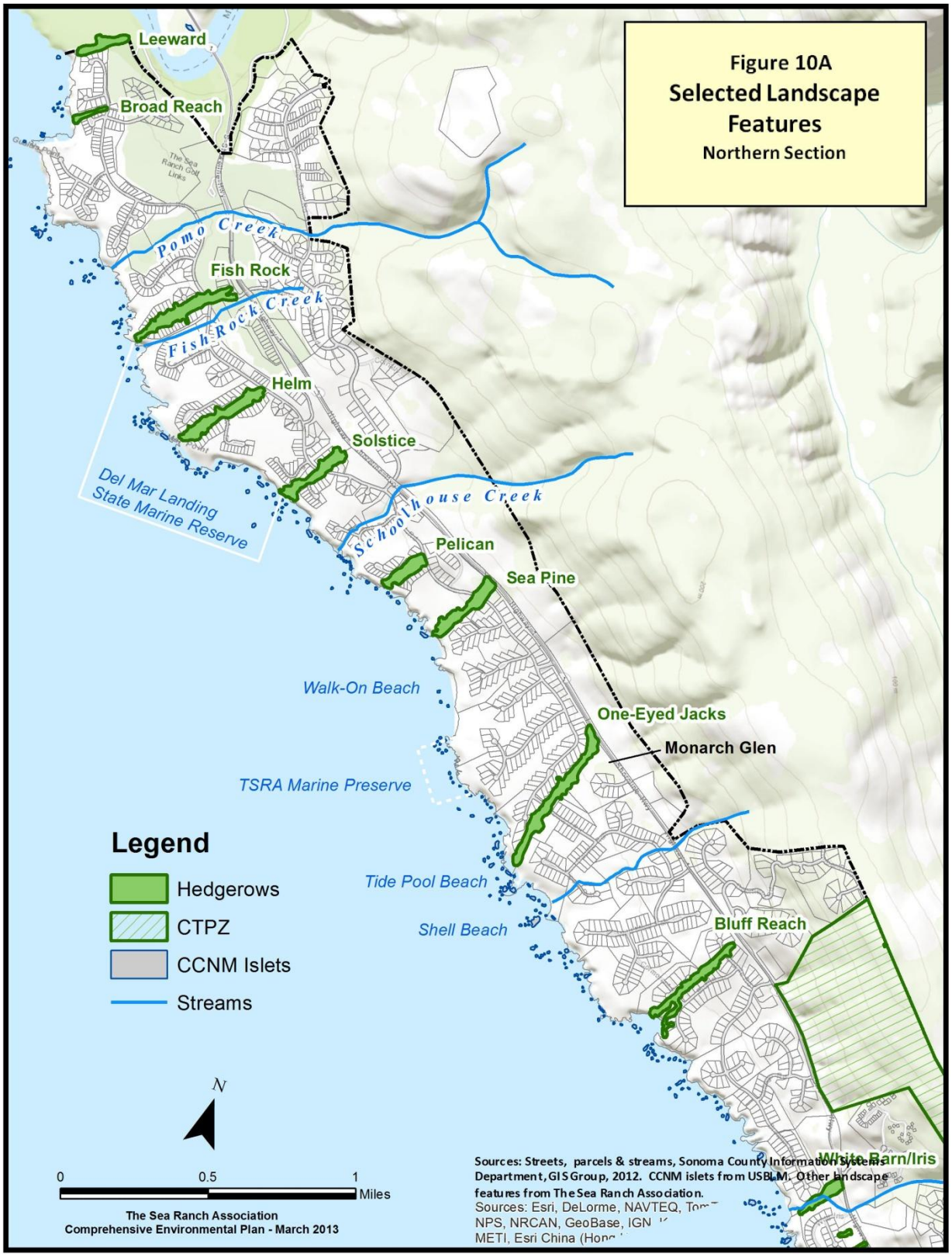
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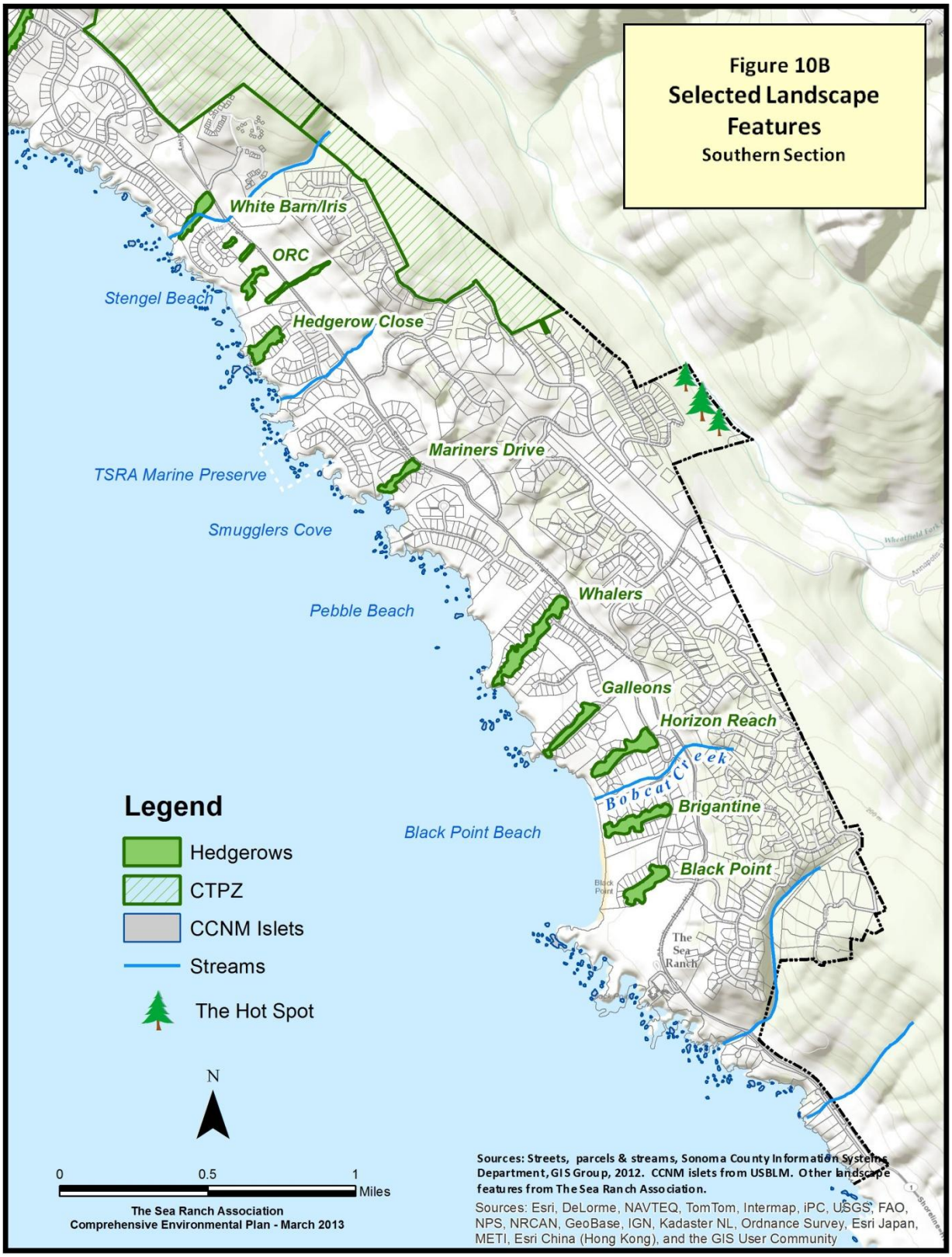
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“Signature” Hedgerow Map in Comprehensive Environmental Plan



“Signature” Hedgerow Map in Comprehensive Environmental Plan



INTRODUCTION

When the founders and developers of The Sea Ranch arrived in the early 1960's, they found 10 miles of barren meadows overgrazed by cattle and sheep and divided by hedgerows. Walter Frick had planted the twenty Monterrey cypress hedgerows we know today as "Signature" hedgerows around 1916 to provide shelter from the harsh coast winds for his Del Mar Ranch livestock.

Over the years, the windbreaks grew and became dominant visual landmarks. The designers of The Sea Ranch used the hedgerows for wind protection and as templates for laying out roads and home sites in ways that preserved open commons.

As the barren land recovered and meadows flourished, people could enjoy views -- across the waving grasses, out to the ocean, and up to the forests. Hikers today are inspired by trails through and along the majestic hedgerows. Wildlife and birds use the hedgerows for food, shelter, and as transportation corridors for moving through The Sea Ranch.

The original twenty cypress hedgerows are now 100 years old. They have grown to heights of eighty feet and more, providing dramatic windswept vistas throughout The Sea Ranch landscape. But they have also been showing signs of decline in this harsh coastal environment. Without planned management, future generations of Sea Ranchers will not experience the legacy of the "Signature" hedgerows.

BACKGROUND

The Association has been concerned about the future of our aging hedgerows for a long time. In the 1991 Vegetation Management Report, forester Joe McBride assessed the condition of the hedgerows and concluded that the Association should begin to replace them at a rate of 2 per year over the next 10 years. Nothing happened for a while except a lot of discussion with members urging the Board to do their hedgerow first and members saying "don't you dare touch my hedgerow."

Then late in the decade, the trees in the hedgerow at the Equestrian Center were found to be diseased. In 1999, that hedgerow was removed and replaced with new trees. Fifteen years later the replanted Equestrian Center hedgerow is lush, forty feet tall, and again serving well as a windbreak, testimony that replanting our cypress hedgerows is a good strategy for conserving these important features in The Sea Ranch landscape.

After the replanting of the Equestrian Center hedgerow, the Board asked the Planning Committee to develop a plan and establish priorities for replanting the rest of the hedgerows. The Planning Committee formed a subcommittee, which is still partly intact today, to undertake this effort. Chaired by Jim Platt, who is no longer at The Sea Ranch, it included Jan Strand, a long time Sea Rancher who died last year, forester Ray Jackman, Bruce Burdick, and Dibby Tyler. Elaine Lawson and Kathryn Weiss joined the subcommittee in the mid 2000s.

One of the first things the subcommittee did was to break the hedgerows down into 35 workable segments separated by roads or trails. Then, the subcommittee considered many factors to develop a priority system for rehabbing the hedgerow segments in order to give the Board and staff a simple, objective way to decide what hedgerow to do next.

The committee members walked every hedgerow at least once and counted three things: living trees, dead trees and missing trees. Adding them together provided the number of trees in the original hedgerow. Then the percentage of the original trees that were still alive was calculated. That percentage, a good surrogate for hedgerow condition, became the measure used to set priorities.

One third of the originals trees were missing when they were counted in 2001. Nineteen of the segments had lost 50% or more of their live trees. One hedgerow had only 19% of its original trees. That was Broad Reach which was replanted in 2002.

This first hedgerow subcommittee believed it was important to involve members in the neighborhoods which would be affected by the changes. Each year the Hedgerow Subcommittee consults with staff and then meets on site with neighbors to explain the proposal for that site and to get their input prior to finalizing the rehabilitation plan.

The original hedgerow subcommittees' analysis and recommendations are contained in the document: "Signature Hedgerows for the 21st Century, A Plan for Hedgerow Rehabilitation." The Plan was adopted by The Sea Ranch Board of Directors in October 2001 and has guided hedgerow development ever since.

HEDGEROW REPLANTING PROGRAM: 2001 TO PRESENT

The 2001 Hedgerow Rehabilitation Plan was approved with the hope that at least a majority of the 35 hedgerow segments could be replanted in 10 to 12 years. Fourteen hedgerow segments have been replanted since the plan was adopted. Two hedgerow

segments at the Equestrian Center and Galleon's Reach were replanted before the Plan was adopted, one because of disease and the other as a pilot project. Currently we have a total of 16 replanted hedgerow segments.

Over time, some new segments were added to the original 35 studied, and there are now 40 segments of which 24 remain to be planted. See Tables 1 and 2 on pages 4 and 5 for the current work schedule and the hedgerows replanted to date.

The work from 2001 to present was prioritized according to the health of the hedgerow, and, to some extent, the ease of carrying out the work. This favored hedgerows where the commons strip is wide enough to plant the new trees while temporarily retaining the original trees and secondary growth. So far, the work has been completed with little controversy and limited removal of original trees.

A second complete review of the hedgerows in 2007 determined that there had not been any major changes which would require a revision of the priority list although somewhat more than ½ of the hedgerows had fewer live trees than in 2001. A decision was made at this time to leave One-Eyed Jacks as an example of the beauty of old gnarly cypress trees. Two other segments near the White Barn on Wild Iris were removed from the work plan because one was in a riparian corridor which is a wildlife habitat and the other had been planted previously as part of a project in another segment.

In the course of ongoing activities, subcommittee members regularly check hedgerow conditions for any changes, after a major storm for example. The subcommittee also considers requests for reconsideration of the priority list from owners who are concerned about a particular hedgerow. Recommendations relative to hedgerows from the Commons Landscape Committee reports are included in the Hedgerow Subcommittee considerations.

Meetings continue to be held annually with neighbors who live near hedgerows scheduled for replanting. Staff and subcommittee recommendations are presented and interested members give their input. Following the meetings, usually in late September or October, the original and secondary growth are removed or pruned to make a clearing for the new hedgerow. Facilities and Resources staff dig holes for seedlings.

The subcommittee organizes the planting event which includes neighbors, subcommittee members, and the welcome help of the Trails Committee.

Table 1: SIGNATURE HEDGEROWS: 40 SEGMENTS (North to South)

# HEDGEROW NAME & LOCATION	REPLANT YEAR	MAINTENANCE YEAR
1 Leeward (Bordering Regional Park)	2010	
2 Broad Reach (Bluff to Leeward)	2002	2015
3A Fish Rock (Bluff to Traffic Circle)	2003	
3B Fish Rock (Traffic Circle to Leeward)		
4A Helm (Bluff to del Mar Point)	2004	
4B Helm (Del Mar Point to Leeward)*		
5A Solstice (Bluff to Leeward)		
5B Solstice (East of Leeward)		
5C Solstice (North of Del Mar Center Pool)		
6A Pelican (Bluff to Foremast)	2007	
6B Pelican (Foremast to Leeward)		
7 Sea Pine (Bluff to Leeward)		
8A One-Eyed Jacks (Bluff to Leeward)		
8B One-Eyed Jacks (Leeward to Monarch Glen Trail)		
8C One-Eyed Jacks (Leeward Meadow Trail to Hwy 1)		
9A Bluff Reach (Bluff to Cormorant)	2014	
9B Bluff Reach (Cormorant Close to Hedgegate)		
9C Bluff Reach (Hedgegate to Hwy 1)*	2011	
10A White Barn/Wild Iris (Hwy 1 midway to Bluff)	2005	2016
10B White Barn/Wild Iris (Midway to Stengel Beach)	2016	
10C White Barn/Wild Iris (North and South of Barn)		
11A Ohlson Ranch House (Bluff to Pool Driveway)	2006	2016
11B Ohlson Ranch House (Pool Driveway to Hwy 1)	2016	
12A Equestrian Center (West of Hwy 1 south of Tennis Crt)		
12B Equestrian Center (Hwy 1 to Entry Driveway & Fence)	1999/2000	
12C Equestrian Center (Fence uphill to Commons)		
13 Hedgerow Close ((Bluff to Albatross)	2013	
14A Mariner's Drive (Bluff to Mariner's)*		
14B Mariner's Drive (Mariner's to Hwy 1)		
15A Whaler's (Bluff to Fisherman')	2008	
15B Whaler's (Fisherman's to Sea Gate)	2008	
15C Whaler's (Sea Gate to Hwy 1)		
16 Galleon's Reach	2001	2015
17A Horizon Reach (Bluff to Shepard)		
17B Horizon Reach (East of Shepard)		
18A Brigantine (Bluff to Bowsprit)		
18B Brigantine (Bowsprit to Cypress)	2012	
18C Brigantine (Cypress to Moonraker)	2012	
19 Black Point (Bluff to Moonraker)	2015	
20 Condo 1 and the Lodge	1965	

Table 2: SIXTEEN REPLANTED HEDGEROW SEGMENTS - BY YEAR

12A Equestrian Center (Hwy 1 to Driveway)	1999
26 Galleon's Reach	2001
2 Broad Reach (Bluff to Leeward)	2002
3A Fish Rock (Bluff to Traffic Circle)	2003
4A Helm (Bluff to del Mar Point)	2004
10A Barn/Iris (Bike path to Creek)	2005
11B Ohlson Ranch House (Bike Path to Bluff)	2006
6A Pelican (Bluff to Foremast)	2007
15A Whaler's (Bluff to Fisherman's)	2008
15B Whaler's (Fisherman's to Sea Gate)	2008
1 Leeward (Bordering Regional Park)	2010
9C Bluff Reach (Hedgegate to Hwy 1)	2011
18B Brigantine (Bowsprit to Cypress)	2012
19C Brigantine (Cypress to Moonraker)	2012
13 Hedgerow Close (Bluff to Albatross)	2013
9A Bluff Reach (Bluff to Cormorant)	2014

Note: Twenty four segments have not been replanted.

Approximately 80 to 100 trees are planted in each new hedgerow. Initially the seedlings were placed 8 feet apart and later 10 feet. Appropriate spacing is under consideration again. The new hedgerows must have regular maintenance, including watering for several years and wind screens as needed, both of which F&R provides. CLC stewards often weed the replants and work with F&R to clear around the growing hedgerows.

Until recently, the seedlings were harvested from Sea Ranch commons and potted by volunteers. The potted trees were then watered and cared for at the Posh Squash until needed for a new hedgerow. More recently the cypress seedlings have been purchased from nurseries in the Bodega area with climate conditions similar to TSR because that is now more cost effective.

To date the Hedgerow program has been a mostly successful legacy program, although it is difficult to keep up with the work. Replacing the aging hedgerows is a major effort, requiring a lot of volunteer time, the labor of F&R crews, and for larger tree and branch removal work, the hiring of outside contractors. Keeping up with deferred maintenance gets more intensive every year as the original trees decline.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 2013 MCBRIDE REPORT

In 2013, Joe McBride took another look at the program in a vegetation update report commissioned by the Board. He praised the success of the hedgerow replanting program and encouraged TSRA to keep it going. His report indicated that high priority hedgerows should be replanted during the next 10 years and those of medium priority within the next 10- 20 years.

McBride's report also made a significant new recommendation: *Hedgerows and secondary growth adjacent to replacement plants should be either taken down or limbed up once the new trees reach a height of 10-20 feet in order to allow them to be strengthened by exposure to the wind.*

2013 HEDGEROW SUBCOMMITTEE: MISSION EXPANDED

In accord with the McBride recommendations, the current and expanded mission of the hedgerow subcommittee is:

(1) continue to replace declining original hedgerows by replanting them, and

(2) develop specific plans for managing and maintaining the replanted trees,

> (a) first as seedlings getting established, and
> (b) secondly as they grow to heights of 10-20 feet and require conditions that promote their health and insure their survival.

METHODOLOGY USED IN 2013-15 SURVEY

In order to assess the current conditions of the hedgerows, instead of counting trees as had been done in 2001 and 2007, the subcommittee group spent considerable time (over one and a half years) familiarizing themselves with the hedgerows by walking each of them and taking extensive field notes. Findings were also documented with photographs and detailed sketches to be used for making comparisons and setting priorities at the end of the survey.

The field notes described and recorded conditions that affect the health of the hedgerows. Original trees were found to be in decline, losing branches, canopy, and often falling over due to wind. Secondary growth was vigorous, encroaching on meadows and private lots as well as overshadowing the young replanted hedgerows. In almost all situations the definition of the original hedgerows was being lost and the replanted hedgerows were overgrown by other trees stunting their growth and blurring their definition as replacement hedgerows. Replanted hedgerows were found to be in need of serious maintenance to foster their growth.

Other factors were noted and used to evaluate conditions in order to set priorities for hedgerow work. These involved assessing the relationship of the hedgerows, both old and new, to the roads, trails, homes, waterways and other significant features around them.

"Signature Hedgerows: 2015 Conditions and Recommendations" provides a detailed summary of the survey notes for each hedgerow. See Appendix A.

In accordance with the expanded mission of the hedgerow subcommittee as indicated by Joe McBride, two priority lists for work have been generated from the Conditions and Recommendations notes to help guide next steps. The first list is titled "Work Priorities for Management of Replanted Segments." See Appendix B. The second is titled "Work Priorities for Replanting by Hedgerow Segment." See Appendix C.

SETTING PRIORITIES FOR MANAGING REPLANTED HEDGEROWS

As of 2015, sixteen replanted hedgerow segments ranged in age from one year to sixteen years. Of these, eight have reached or exceeded the 10-20 foot height that McBride recommended should guide management interventions. See Table 3 on pg 8.

As previously mentioned, when the replanted hedgerows grow, both original hedgerow trees and secondary growth overshadow them and threaten their access to sun, wind, and space. Without adequate light, the cypress branches brown and die. Once dead, they do not regenerate. Opening up space around the replanted trees promotes their growth. Exposure to wind or "hardening off" is necessary for strengthening them.

Table 3: CURRENT HEIGHTS OF REPLANTED SEGMENTS - 2015

Hedgerow Segment	Year Replanted	Height
12A Equestrian Center (Hwy 1 to Driveway)	1999	30’ - 40’
16 Galleon’s Reach	2000	25’ - 35’
2 Broad Reach (Bluff to Leeward)	2002	Up to 30’
3A Fish Rock (Bluff to Traffic Circle)	2003	20’ - 30’
4A Helm (Bluff to del Mar Point)	2004	30’ - 40’
10A Barn/Iris (Bike path to Creek)	2005	25’ - 30’
11B Ohlson Ranch (Pool Driveway to Bluff)	2006	20’ - 30’
6A Pelican (Bluff to Foremast)	2007	15’ - 35’
15A Whaler’s (Bluff to Fisherman’s)	2008	5’ - 8’
15B Whaler’s (Fisherman’s to Sea Gate)	2008	5’- 8’
1 Leeward (Bordering Regional Park)	2010	8’ - 12’
9C Bluff Reach (Hedgegate to Hwy 1)	2011	6’ - 12’
18B Brigantine (Bowsprit to Cypress)	2012	3’ - 4’
19C Brigantine (Cypress to Moonraker)	2012	3’ - 4’
13 Hedgerow Close (Bluff to Albatross)	2013	3’- 4’
9A Bluff Reach (Bluff to Cormorant)	2014	3’ - 4’

Note: Eight replanted segments are already over 15’ tall.

The 2015 subcommittee recommends major priority be given to catching up on the maintenance necessary for the survival of the replanted hedgerows. Conditions need to be monitored and appropriate action taken to make sure seedlings will grow into strong healthy trees. The Hedgerow subcommittee is learning from mistakes made as the years have gone by and realizes that a critical effort needs to be made to document Monitoring and Maintenance protocols in order to protect the investment that has been made in them with time, energy, and the costs of replanting them.

As mentioned, managing the replanted trees once they reach 10-20’ involves major work. Planning for complete removal, or at least serious pruning back, of surrounding original hedgerow cypress and/or secondary growth is necessary. Currently in about two thirds of the hedgerow segments where replanting has been done, the original trees still exist and the secondary growth has proliferated.

Determining what work should take priority depends on a variety of factors, such as:

- the condition of the original and secondary trees and whether they are likely to pose a threat to homes or people;
- the common space available for performing work;
- the need to maintain privacy for residences adjacent to hedgerows;
- preserving the visual and linear form of a hedgerow, including views from both near and far;
- the extent of the intrusion of the original trees, secondary growth, and sometimes tertiary growth onto commons or private property.

MONITORING NEWLY PLANTED HEDGEROWS

Ensuring the survival and health of small seedlings and growing saplings requires proper planting, adequate watering for the first two years, and the protection of young trees from harsh winds. F&R continues to provide watering services, stake young trees, and install wind screens where needed. The hedgerow subcommittee, CLC stewards and Trails committee volunteers have provided replanting, monitoring, and ongoing weeding of hedgerows. But all agree that a more organized and concerted effort will be needed going forward to make up for deferred maintenance to date.

It is the goal of this subcommittee to establish a program where volunteers “Adopt a Hedgerow” to walk regularly and report on any changing conditions. Such regular oversight will help enormously to prevent missing key changes in the hedgerows as the years go by. Developing an active monitoring and stewardship program by creating Monitoring and Maintenance Manuals will provide trained volunteers and more timely management while trees are young. The Trails Committee volunteers already monitor hedgerows with trails; the Posh Squash is a model for organized procedures; Biotic Resources charts the plants and habitat areas of our riparian ways and wetlands; CLC stewards work with DCEM to provide many volunteer hours that save the Association money . Using these resources and models, and collaborating with others doing landscape work, the Hedgerow subcommittee believes we can foster the health of our future hedgerows.

The hedgerow subcommittee proposes to receive monthly (or bimonthly) reports from its monitors and follow through by providing a list of maintenance recommendations to F&R and DCEM for review and action. Work would be approved by DCEM and scheduled for volunteer stewardship or assigned to F&R crews. Outside contractors would be scheduled by DCEM when required by the level of the work needed.

SETTING PRIORITIES FOR CONTINUED REPLANTING OF ORIGINAL HEDGEROWS

Some original hedgerow segments have declined significantly since the 2007 surveys – segments in One Eyed Jack's, Sea Pine, Pelican, and Helm to name a few. Others still have aesthetic value as 100 year old cypress stands, for example, the hedgerows to the north and south of the White Barn and the middle segment of Bluff Reach, a popular trail through a majestic corridor.

An important goal relative to the original hedgerows is to maintain those that retain their beauty and form for as long as possible, understanding that monitoring is necessary since even a few months time or one strong storm can change conditions in a model iconic hedgerow.

As mentioned earlier, of the 40 hedgerow segments, 24 remain to be replaced. Identifying hedgerows for replanting includes a range of criteria, even involving questions in several locations about whether it was possible or desirable to replant.

Since most of the original hedgerow segments are in various states of advanced decline, those receiving the highest priority for work are the ones that are breaking and falling and may therefore threaten the safety of homes or people. Those receiving the lowest priority are still in relatively good condition, not battered by winds, and offer some aesthetic experience. Other variables considered in determining priority included the original hedgerow in relation to the surrounding environment, that is, whether the removal of the trees will impact privacy, views, waterways, wetlands, and habitat areas; whether commons space is available for replanting; and how original cypress and/or secondary trees might be used to protect new replants or screen homes.

Decisions about how and where to replant a new hedgerow are situational. Every replanting decision involves questions about complete removal or at least serious pruning back of the original hedgerow trees and their secondaries. These can be aesthetic decisions, but also financial choices. Any partial removal of trees should be carefully studied to avoid creating more expense or damage to an area when returning to perform work in the future as trees grow.

Along with neighbors' preferences, the "Conditions and Recommendations" report should be used to determine a given approach for each hedgerow replacement .

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

The hedgerow subcommittee recognizes that The Sea Ranch is now experiencing a proliferation of vegetation across its landscape, from meadow shrubs to forest edges. Budget constraints have prevented the Association from keeping up with the projected 3% annual rate of tree growth, and consequently, management of vegetation hasn't kept pace with that compounding growth. The hedgerows are certainly part of the equation.

The "Signature" hedgerows are valued features of the TSR landscape culturally, historically, environmentally, and aesthetically. If management of the new replanted hedgerows is deferred and they are not protected, we are in danger of losing them. If the original trees are not replaced, they will eventually collapse and disappear as the double- rowed cypress hedgerows we know and will be replaced instead by random sizes and species of the vegetation that succeeds them.

In 2014-15, the budget for the hedgerow program was $ 70,000 for combined "rehab" (replanting) and "re-entry" (replant management) work. In 2015-16, the amount was reduced to $ 50,000 for the combined work.

Last winter proposals were made to the 5 Year Plan for a budget of $80 - $100K for the replanting of two hedgerows per year and for $30 - $60K for maintenance of two replanted hedgerows per year. The requests were intended to emphasize the urgency of the need for more aggressive management of the Signature hedgerows with an ambitious doubling up of the work projected for both rehab and re-entry.

However, recognizing that the budget is unlikely to increase enough to do everything that is needed, the hedgerow subcommittee has made it a general recommendation to give priority to projects needed to maintain the already-replanted hedgerows before starting on a new hedgerow. The hedgerow subcommittee is committed to finding cost saving ways to maintain the replanted trees. Eight replanted segments now range in height from 20 to 45' and require such work as limb removal, trimming back of encroaching original and secondary growth, and major debris clearing.

Efforts have been made this year to rescue two replanted hedgerows from conditions that were smothering the replants. Galleon's Reach planted in 2001 and the bluff segment of the Pelican hedgerow planted in 2007 were transformed by the combined efforts of the stewardship group and F&R. These efforts were completed at a fraction of the anticipated costs because an alternative maintenance plan was adopted which

didn’t involve complete removal of original cypress and secondary trees and thus avoided using an outside contractor. Between June and September of 2015 hedgerow stewards volunteered 166 hours on the above mentioned projects.

Previous efforts contributing to hedgerow maintenace included 242 hours of weeding and cleanup in the Leeward and Brigantine hedgerows over the last five years by CLC stewards. And, the Trails Committee has participated heavily over the last 8 years with the hedgerow subcommittee in both digging up and replanting seedlings each fall.

But contractors will always be needed in situations that require (1) the removal of the original cypress as they decline and (2) the removal of the original and secondary trees which threaten the health of the replanted hedgerows trees. Helm, Fish Rock, and Sea Pine are among a number of hedgerows where contractor work will be unavoidable. Volunteers and F&R removed some sizeable growth at Galleons & Pelican, but some trees were left standing in these hedgerows which need removal by contractors.

The priority lists In Appendix B & C suggest a schedule for major hedgerow work according to current conditions and the estimated decline of specific hedgerows. But, as we have seen throughout our study, unexpected and rapid changes can occur in our oldest trees requiring attention more immediately than has been scheduled. An increase in the budget, or at least a return to former budget funding, would support this critical element of the hedgerow program, allowing for major tree removals by contractors as conditions demand.

Overall, a return to former budget levels and consideration of a 5 Year Plan “bump” in funding would substantially help to stabilize the ongoing rotation of hedgerow management for the future reducing the need for contractors as more and more of the original trees are taken out.