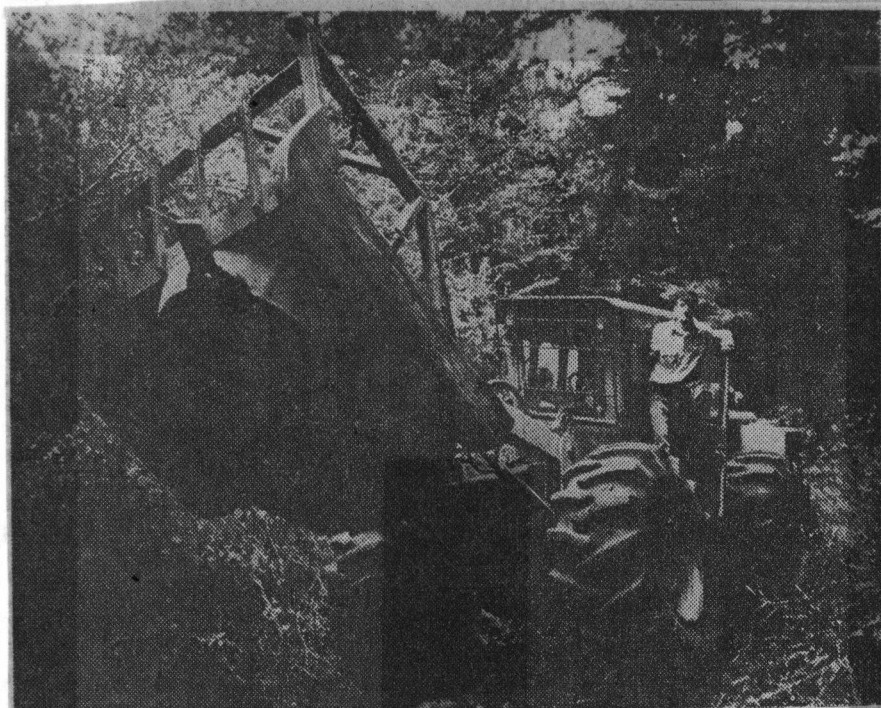


Flora

# Reforestation Project In Bonny Doon The First In State Under New Program



(Sentinel Photo by Dan Coyro)

**Giant mower clears brush in preparation of planting seedlings.**

By DENISE SIEBENTHAL  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Some 14,000 Redwood and Douglas Fir seedlings soon will be planted on 26 acres in Bonny Doon as the first reforestation project in the state begins under the California Forest Improvement Program.

Under this program, the state pays 90 percent of the cost of improving timberlands through programs involving tree planting, erosion control and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat.

The contract with the state for the Bonny Doon reforestation project undertaken by landowner Tom Carey and forester Dale Holderman recently was signed by Gov. Edmund Brown Jr. in a special ceremony in Sacramento. The project is the first of its kind in the state.

The state monies from the program come from state forest revenues. The program was created by legislation introduced by Assemblyman Victor Calvo, D-Mtn. View, and signed by Brown in 1978.

Some \$6.7 million has been set aside for the program this year. Carey will get about \$5,780 from the state for his project which will cost \$6,422.

The Bonny Doon reforestation project is taking place on a small portion of 300 acres owned by Carey at 1905 Smith Grade. The property straddles both sides of Majors Creek and is the site of the historical Bald Mountain Schoolhouse.

An environmental impact report was completed on the project in June 1979.

While Carey only plans to plant 26 acres of seedlings this winter, he hopes to get state approval to do the same on two other 26-acre tracts on the 300-acre site over the next two years.

Holderman, the forester for Big Creek Lumber Co. in Davenport, first brought to Carey's attention the California Forest Improvement Program. The forester wrote up the proposal accepted by the state and is overseeing the project.

The area also contains trees of a size that can be logged for commercial purposes in 25-30 years. Carey plans to enter into an agreement with Big Creek to cut some of these trees eventually.

Logging, however, isn't the only thing

Carey has in mind for his 300 acres. At his own expense, he has had brush cleared from another 26 acres which he plans to use for recreational purposes such as a camp for children and grazing.

This will fit into what the state Coastal Plan has in mind for the property, Carey noted. Located in the coastal zone, it's designated as an agricultural resource and for visitor facilities.

The reforestation project is in three phases, with the first phase being undertaken currently. This preliminary phase involves the cutting down of brush with a huge mower known as a Hydro-ax.

The property had been commercially logged by a former landowner about 15 years ago. After the trees were removed, brush overtook the cleared land and now some of it is 15 feet high. This brush — mostly consisting of ceanothus — is being taken out with the Hydro-ax.

Following this clearing operation, 540 seedlings per acre will be planted this winter. About three-quarters of the trees will be Redwood and the other quarter will be Douglas Fir.

The third phase of the project will be the pre-commercial thinning of existing trees on the property.

This thinning operation will take place on about three acres and will involve thinning dense stands of trees to give trees a chance to grow, removing small, defective trees and cutting off deformed and poorly-situated sprouts from Redwoods to let the better sprouts develop into trees.

Under the California Forest Improvement Program, owners of between 200-5,000 acres are eligible for the state funds.

Land already in a timber preserve zone is automatically eligible for the funds and land that's not in such a zone is eligible if

the landowner agrees to keep it as forest land for 10 years.

Information on the program may be obtained by calling 916-322-0161, or by writing to the California Forest Improvement Program, 1416 Ninth St., Room 1506, Sacramento, 95814.

Of the need for this program, Brown recently said, "California's 16 million acres of commercial forest land is producing at less than 50 percent of capacity. Large industry and public lands are in reasonably good shape. However, the smaller forest landowner is the key to major advances in forest improvement over the next 20 years."

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL  
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