

## **An amateur's experiential musings and observations.**

Hiking on the CMCA Forest trail to the CM Refuge from 5<sup>th</sup> and then back down to the beach on the CM Refuge switchback trail (loop), marveling at the forest succession and what the CMCA/ Grimm lands could be in the future if all becomes part of the expanded Refuge. Once could see what it could become as part of a larger, healthier ecosystem and what is possible.

### **LIGHT, GAPS AND THE FOREST – ALLOWING FOR NATURAL SUCCESSION**

**On CMCA property, noting the darkness of the forest (much lower light levels), density of tree plantings/ spacing of trunks, lack of leaves/ needles/ vegetation on lower elevations of trunk, few horizontal branches and the bare ground.**



**On REFUGE property (older forest), more light in forest, forest gaps from treefall, wider spacing between mature trees, ground is densely vegetated “live mulch”, little bare ground, more horizontal branching / wider berth.**



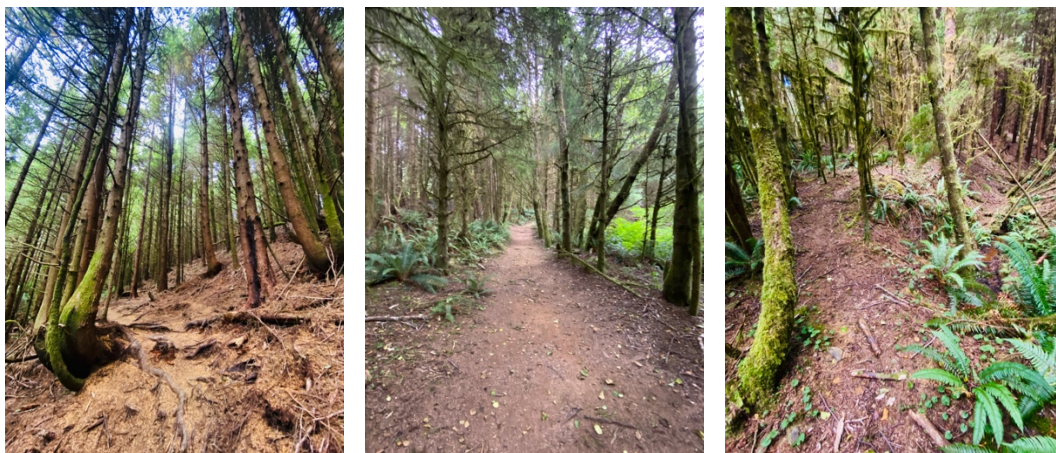
## **TRAILS, PATHS AND SHARING THE FOREST FLOOR – WORKING WITH THE LANDSCAPE**

Struck by the more narrow paths and how they wind their way/ zig zag down, with minimal impact and the closeness of the vegetation to the trail. The path making way for the groundspace – around/ thru fallen logs, using tree roots as steps, places for feet to clench, shifted sideways to become path edges. Allowing for canopy/ cantilevered logs (with decaying wood loving species like salal and red huckleberry to reach closer to the sky/ light) tunnels above the path. Model for restoration of CMCA/ Grimm trails/ paths/ where they might be/ be retained/ used. Some minimal steel culvert to allow for water/ creek passage; some cutting thru logs to pass thru large fallen trees where unable to pass around (given the girth and size).



On the CM REFUGE TRAIL

On the CMCA forest / Grimm property trails – wider, lots of rock base (old logging roads, for vehicles, built / “maintained” by illegal bike folks). Did note CMCA trail is less steep, potentially more accessible as it “skirts” the historic landslide instead of trailing thru it like the REFUGE trail.



## SEEING THE LIGHT / GAPS THRU THE MOON SIDE



Seeing the light thru trail canopies (moon side) of salmonberry groves (left), red elderberry leaves (middle) – thru the delicate leaves, canopies, thinner lighter above you – understanding the higher forest gaps...and then horizontally thru thickets of salmonberry edging/ marking drainage areas, underground water and seeps (right)...

## DIFFERENT LIGHT, SAME PLANT, DIFFERENT RESPONSES – plant adaptations

Struck by seeing very old, old growth salal species (*Gaultheria phillyifolia*) response/ form/ shape under dense shaded tree canopies – twiggy, so tall, leaves up high (left photo) vs. more open hedge, creek and forest clearing areas (right).



Similar examples on CMCA/ Grimm land where find mats of dead salal bushes/ struggling growth on densely wooded forest areas.



## **WALKING DOWNHILL WITH GRAVITY (“THE PULL”) TOWARDS THE PACIFIC**

Walking downhill towards the Pacific, trail starts to open/ visible glimpses of the Pacific Ocean/ beach thru gaps in the canopy. Natural connections to larger vistas and natural processes thru natural wind gaps (perhaps correlate with direction of wind), thru landslide edges (steepness, historic landslides, movement of water – visible and invisible - underfoot- all flowing , gravity down - to the Pacific)m views making room for creeks and wetland “openings”...

Sequence moving downhill...



1<sup>st</sup> glimpse



thru the spruce



thru the creek/ wetlands

Looking north up the coast thru trees/ forest



From the wetlands



at the pacific



looking north on the coast