

A.4 Forest Management

The forest watershed of CJH is considered as the “last frontier” of vast forested area within Baguio City, the reason why it has been dubbed as the “Lungs of the City”. In fact, according to DENR-CAR statistics, this Benguet Pine-dominated CJH forest accounts for roughly 53% of the remaining forest cover of Baguio City. No wonder why the *Ambient Air Quality Index* within this tourist haven in Baguio City has consistently been rated as “GOOD” by the DENR –Environmental Management Bureau, which is so far the best index in the entire Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay (BLISTT) District.

For the year 2021, the following are the accomplishments relative to the management of the Forest Watershed and Biodiversity:

A.4.1 Reforestation/Enrichment Planting Activities

A total of **1,000** seedlings of Benguet Pine, Coffea Arabica and Tibig were planted within Camp 4 Tuba inside the JHRA and Tinongdan, Itogon, Benguet as a measure to mitigate the environmental impacts brought about by the removal of dead and/or pest-infested trees that posed danger to public safety. A total of **12,000** tree seedling donations were also given to the DENR CAR in support of its National Greening Program.



Reforestation Activity in Camp 6 on June 25, 2021



Reforestation Activity in Itogon, Benguet on June 25, 2021

A.4.2 General Forest Care Activities

****Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)***

General forest care activities that started in June 2021, which prioritized ANR involved ring weeding and brushing activities around wildlings that are suppressed and overgrown by weeds and vines. This is to liberate them and allow unhindered growth and survival. In addition, overcrowded natural pine regenerations otherwise known as “wildlings” (about 4-10 cms in size) are gathered, potted and cared for at the nursery until they attain plantable size and subsequently they are planted during reforestation activities to increase and maintain forest density and quality within the JHRA.





Gathering of Wildings

****Clearing and Maintenance of Fire Lines***

This is a year-in, year-out activity which yielded a total of **11,460 square meters' area** coverage of cleared and maintained fire lines at the Yellow Trail site for CY 2021.



Firelines at the Yellow Trail

A.4.3 JHMC-Initiated Tree Cutting and Pruning Operations

In a natural living ecosystem, tree mortalities and senescence is an integral part of the dynamics within the ecosystem. Such mortalities, however, has to be managed to ensure public safety within the Camp as well as to maintain the health and beauty of this urban park.

For the year 2021, a total of 120 dead Benguet Pine trees that posed danger to public safety and/or pest-infested Benguet Pine trees were cut to ensure public safety as well as to prevent the spread of the infestation/infection to the healthy trees. These tree cutting events were all covered by a Tree Cutting Permit issued by the DENR-CAR.

