



Campaign to Restore Jackson
State Redwood Forest
43151 Little Lake Road
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January 11, 2007

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Dear Russ:

I understand that you have been given the responsibility to define the map "overlays" that would modify the map being used in conjunction with what is now being termed Alternative G.

I want to state my understanding of the purpose of these overlays. To do this, let me use as an example, an overlay I provided at the January 4 meeting, "High Value Older Forest." The graphic depiction was crude, but the intent was to include within the outlined boundaries all of the stands in the forest that contain a significant proportion of trees older than 80 years. Not all stands within a given boundary necessarily meet this criterion, but within a given boundary the stands should predominantly fit this criterion. The purpose is to identify geographic areas within the forest that should be *considered* for their older-forest value during the initial-phase planning process. I emphasize that the overlay is to identify areas to be *considered*, not to imply in any way that everything within these areas ought to be managed for the value identified. For long-term planning, though, identifying large areas that contain similar values seems superior to showing a patchwork of small plots.

In my mind, each overlay has two purposes: 1) to geographically identify values that should be carefully considered during the initial phase of the management plan, so that timber harvesting during this phase does not preclude future options for long-term landscape-level planning; and 2) to indicate to the planners working to define the long-term landscape plan that they have substantial geographic latitude in specifying how particular goals will be met. This latter purpose is important because, as it now stands, the draft plan designates hard boundaries on areas to be managed for specific purposes. The subcommittee of the board emphasized that the plan document needs to make clear that these boundaries would be open to revision during the initial-phase planning process. The overlays will help to make this point clearly.

Following is a list of the overlays that I would like to see created, together with some explanation.

1. **High Value Older Forest:** This overlay should include all old growth and older second growth stands within an understandable number of boundaries.

In the overlay I presented at the January 4 meeting, I included within one boundary the entire north-central area of JDSF, bounded on the west and south by Hwy 20 and on the east by Chamberlain Creek. Most of this area has been entered at most once since the 1920's, and substantial areas not at all. I included the same area in the overlay for "High Value Recreation Areas." Substantial

portions of this area have important values for wildlife, fish, and botanicals. Because of its multiple values, this entire area needs to be carefully considered during the initial phase planning process.

I also included all of South Caspar Creek. Although this is part of a designated "experimental forest", it contains stands with the oldest second growth in the forest, contains a salmon stream that is now protected all the way to the ocean, and needs to be considered for its potential in providing habitat for endangered species and for recreation.

2. **High Value for Wildlife and Fish Habitat:** The primary wildlife contribution that Jackson Forest can make regionally is providing habitat for species dependent on late seral forest. The overlay for "High Value Older Forest" should be a starting place for the wildfire habitat overlay. There may also be additional areas to be included because of being adjacent to park areas with high habitat value.

The overlay for fish habitat should include a conservative potential protection zone around all Class 1 and 2 streams.

3. **High Value Recreation Areas:** These include all old-growth stands. The entire north-central region outlined in the "High Value Older Forest" overlay should be included. This region contains existing campgrounds and recreation trails on the west, high potential camping and recreation areas on the east, one existing and more potential trails connecting east and west, and historic remnants of the railroad used for log transport early in the 20th century.

The entire Woodlands Transfer should be included in this area, as the terms of the deed transfer mandate that the transfer area be used for recreation, park, and conservation purposes.

The potential-recreation overlay should include all areas near to residential neighborhoods. This includes most of the western side of Jackson Forest. The Forest should invite neighbors to participate in the development and maintenance of recreation trails in the adjacent areas of the forest. These recreation facilities would not only benefit neighbors but serve as tourist resources and enlist the public in discouraging trash dumping within the forest.

4. **High Value for Restoration R&D:** This overlay should identify large areas that have had even-age management that has led to overcrowding, invasion of exotic species, or overabundance of hardwoods.
5. **High Value for Botanicals:** This overlay would identify areas that are particularly valuable for particular botanicals, whether because endangered or because of their recreational or commercial value. Pigmy forest is an example of endangered botanicals. What comes to mind for recreation and commercial value is the extensive mushroom harvesting that occurs in the forest. An experienced mushroom buyer told me that he estimates the wholesale value of mushrooms harvested in Jackson to be approximately \$1 million. Additionally, there is a high potential for mushrooming to attract tourists and provide local recreation, especially if designated areas were limited to recreational mushrooming.

Botanists need to be consulted to determine areas that have high value for other endangered or threatened botanical species.

I hope that these considerations will help you in creating appropriate overlays to include in the draft management plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vince". The script is cursive and fluid.

Vince Taylor
Executive Director