

Jackson Demonstration State Forest
Monthly Activity Report
February 2009

Administration:

The Jackson Demonstration State Advisory Group (JAG) will meet in Fort Bragg on February 23 and 24. A presentation by Dr. Tom Lisle of the Redwood Sciences Laboratory is on the agenda. The presentation and following discussion will involve the Caspar Creek Watershed Study. Four subcommittees of the JAG met during the month, including the Landscape Committee (Feb. 4), the Research and Monitoring Committee (Feb. 5), the Economics Committee (Feb. 10), and the Recreation Committee (Feb. 13).

The JDSF office was closed for the ordered furlough on Friday Feb. 6 and Feb. 20. The Noyo Watershed Alliance meeting, scheduled for Feb. 20 in the JDSF offices, was moved to another site.

GIS technician Sebastian Roberts has been assisting the Mountain Home State Forest with production of an Option A plan.

Two of the certified timber fallers at JDSF will receive recertification training during the month.

Forester David Ahmadi graduated from the Company Officer module of the Basic Fire Control training at the CAL FIRE Academy this month.

Medical refresher (EMT and First Responder) and hazmat training has been completed by much of the Staff.

Fred Postler is assisting with Forestry Aide interviews at college campuses.

Construction of the two new fish ladders in Caspar Creek have been successfully completed with funds from the California Coastal Conservancy, CalTrans, and the Department. With the recent rains, stream flows are now sufficient to facilitate upstream spawning activity.

Timber Sale Administration:

The preharvest inspection for the Dunlap North THP was conducted during the month. No significant issues surfaced during the inspection, and THP approval is anticipated within a few weeks.

The Hare Creek THP is nearing completion, and is expected to be filed during the month.

THP field preparation activities are continuing in the Dunlap South, Upper Parlin and in the South Whiskey Springs areas.

JDSF and Program staff met with Mendocino Forest Products Company representatives to discuss the potential for timber operations in the Brandon Gulch and 14Gulch areas during the spring of 2009. All participants recognized that the market for logs and lumber is at a low level.

The JDSF Option A (attached to the Northfork Spur THP) is being reviewed; the sample Timber Sale Agreement has been sent to Sacramento.

Field staff has been marking the timber stand within the Brandon Gulch THP area. The silvicultural system is “accelerated development of late-seral forest conditions”. Sample marking within the Camp 3 THP area is expected to begin soon. The silvicultural system is similar to that of Brandon Gulch.

Research and Demonstration:

Professor Kevin O’Hara from the University of California has obtained funding for a study of fire effects, to be conducted on JDSF within the Indian Fire of 2008. University students have visited the fire site to begin field sampling activities.

The National Marine Fishery Service will fund some final analysis of the Road Erosion Study data for the past winter, which will complete the study.

Recreation:

A partial road closure remains in effect for the remainder of the wet-weather season. All campgrounds remain closed.

A substantial amount of permitted mushroom gathering continues within the Forest.

Law Enforcement:

Two Friday evening gatherings, which included illegal activities, were disrupted by the Mendocino Unit’s law enforcement staff. Several of the public participants returned to the sites the following day to clean up at the direction of CAL FIRE staff.