

February 21, 2007

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, Ca. 94244-2460
Attention: George Gentry, Executive Director

Re: Jackson Demonstration State Forest Management Plan

Dear Members of the Board,

The Mendocino Working Group (MWG) got together some time back in hopes of helping find a long term resolution to the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) stalemate. Everyone in the group wants to see JDSF back in production in 2007. This desire is driven by numerous factors such as; regional economic stability, needed restoration work, augmenting the staff at JDSF, and maintaining existing infrastructure.

In response to our recommendations, CDF has proposed an initial implementation of the management plan and associated harvesting restrictions.¹ We have reviewed these recommendations and find that while staff included some of our recommendations they fail to capture adequately some key elements of our proposal that we feel are critical for successful resumption of operations in JDSF.

The MWG feels the key to long-term successful management of JDSF is meaningful local input. We feel strongly a well balanced advisory group structured similar to our suggestion is imperative. This portion of the management plan needs significant clarification and is not an issue that can be dealt with after the fact.

A compromise between CDF's and the MWG's position has been suggested, with appointments to the group being made by the director and ratified by the board; with the advisory group reporting to the director, and at its discretion, to the board. This is acceptable to the working group.

Below is our original recommendation amended to reflect the board's desired changes in language ("initial implementation period" rather than "Phase I") and the suggested compromise. We recommend that this amended recommendation be included in the DFMP:

Overarching Principle: The advisory Group should represent and consider a broad range of views, with emphasis on local input and resource expertise.

¹ *Potential Harvest Limitations to be Applied during Initial Implementation of the Proposed Jackson Demonstration State Forest Management Plan*, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
February 7, 2007

Purpose: Initially to participate in the development of a long-term landscape and revised management plan during the initial implementation period; and to review and field evaluate the implementation of the Timber Harvest Plans proposed for the initial period. Subsequent responsibilities would include field based evaluations (prospective and retrospective) which would provide information for future research and management activities.

During the initial period of implementation of the Forest Management Plan this group will render advice on, but not limited to, the following topics to develop recommendations on modifying the contents of "Desired Future Forest Structure Conditions and Silvicultural Method" identified within the FMP:

The location and extent of recreation areas, corridors, trails, and designated access-ways that will be managed to enhance the full spectrum of recreational opportunities.

The extent and general location of areas to be dedicated to late seral development where timber production will be secondary to habitat development.

The extent and general location of areas to be dedicated to old forest structure zones. The OFSZs will maintain or develop key old forest features. The OFSZs will be available for timber harvest.

The extent that it is necessary to create even-aged stands for potential future research needs.

The need to revise the residual old growth policy, as articulated in our principles statement dated November 30,2006.

The extent and conditions under which herbicides to control native hardwoods should be utilized.

Participation: Open nominations, appointed by the Director of CDF, subject to ratification by the Board of Forestry. Members would represent the public interest and be drawn from a broad spectrum of backgrounds and resource expertise with an emphasis on appointments of local representatives. Professions represented should include forest ecologist, fisheries biologist, botanist, Registered Professional Forester, Licensed Timber Operator and recreational planner. Views represented should include local timber industry, environmental community, recreational users, local businesses and forest neighbors. 10-12 people.

Authority and reporting: Group would interact directly with JDSF staff and management team and report to the Director of CDF and, at its discretion, to the Board of Forestry in an advisory capacity on matters related to forest management policies and changes in the forest management plan. Decision making would preferably be consensus based.

The MWG is concerned with the language suggesting the initial period will sunset no more than 36 months after approval of the Forest Management Plan by the Board. We agree that 3 years should be more than adequate to bring this to resolution, but we don't feel a specific ending time for the initial period should be set. During the initial period, JDSF will be re-staffed with personnel with a broad range of expertise in addition to silviculture, landscape-level planning will be undertaken on a broad array of issues in cooperation with the Jackson Advisory Group, and a credible and verifiable inventory will be established. We envision that a detailed and sustainable long term plan for JDSF will be produced in cooperation with the advisory group, based on detailed specific information that provides for a consensus-based balancing of ecological values, education, research, recreation, timber production and regional economic stability. The initial period should continue until the revised plan is submitted to and approved by the Board of Forestry.

Our proposal for this initial period envisioned low impact harvesting in non-controversial areas. The intent was to generate revenue to restore and enhance staffing, remedy the more significant environmental problems on the forest, initiate a wildlife inventory, a botanical inventory and generate a reviewed and verifiable forest inventory, during the time that CDF was working with the advisory group to develop a long-term landscape and management plan. Our group would enjoy better understanding the decision making process that generated the initial list of plans for 2007 as outlined in the February 7th paper titled "*Potential Harvest Limitations to be applied during Initial Implementation of Proposed JDSF Management Plan*". Often disagreements of this nature are a result of insufficient information we would appreciate a response. Our group is very interested in seeing harvesting resume this year and needs to understand why these plans are favored over others that seem less controversial and lower impact.

Another concept that our group came to consensus on was that in the long run harvest levels should be the result of scientific and biological justification, within the context of a long-term landscape plan that addresses habitat, ecological, recreational/spiritual, education, and research values, rather than what seems to be a politically derived number.

Augmenting the existing staff at JDSF is critical to final development and implementation of the management plan. The resumption of harvesting is critical to existing infrastructure, restoration, and regional economic stability. The MWG appreciates the cooperation both the Board of Forestry and the Department have shown by assimilating many of our ideas into the management plan. Our group is hopeful that all involved understand the short timeline and are committed to moving this process forward.

Mike Anderson
Art Harwood
Vince Taylor

Kathy Bailey
Mike Jani