

Jackson Demonstration State Forest
Monthly Activity Report
April 2009

Administration:

The Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) met in Fort Bragg on April 3 and 4, 2009. Dr. Rob York presented information on UC California's Blodgett Forest. Committee reports, discussion, and breakout sessions of the Landscape, Research, and Economics.

The JAG Landscape subcommittee met in Santa Rosa on April 28, 2009.

Staff members attended chainsaw recertification training this month.

Staff met with PG&E regarding access and maintenance of the distribution line right-of-way through the Forest.

Craig Pedersen attended Certified Purchaser Training and Law Enforcement training.

Tina Fabula attended MAMU survey recertification training.

Timber Sale Preparation and Administration:

The Northfork Spur THP and associated Option "a" were approved this month, as was the Dunlap North THP. A field tour for potential purchasers was held for Northfork Spur.

The 14 Gulch THP bid opening is scheduled for April 28, 2009.

The timber sale contract for Dunlap North has been submitted to the Sacramento contracts office.

The Hare Creek THP was resubmitted to Region.

THP field preparation activities are continuing in the Dunlap South, Upper Parlin and in the South Whiskey Springs areas. Field staff are continuing marking timber in several timber sale areas. Camp Three plot installation is ongoing.

Two Forestry Aides, Zsolt Katay and Patrick Lendrum, started their seasonal appointment.

Research and Demonstration:

The final construction inspection for the Caspar Fish Ladders took place on April 13 & 14th. A juvenile steelhead demonstrated how smaller fish can now move through the structures.

The Annual Caspar Watershed Work Planning Meeting was held at JDSF. PSW staff reported on the North Fork flows and sediment movement. DFG shared disappointing adult salmonid return rates for regional streams including Caspar Creek. Everyone expressed thanks to John Munn for all his support of Caspar Research on the occasion of his retirement.

Dr. Pascal Berrill, Assistant Professor from the Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources at Humboldt State University shared his research with JDSF staff and discussed silvicultural and research opportunities during a productive visit.

Dr Kevin O'Hara of U.C. Berkeley brought the Advanced Silviculture students to JDSF for a field trip conducted by Research and Demonstration Staff April 18.

Dr. Teresa Sholars of College of the Redwoods, brought the Rare Plant students to JDSF for a field visit to reference populations conducted by R&D Staff and Wildlife staff on April 30.

Rosemary Kosaka of NOAA Fisheries will work with R&D staff to wrap up the road erosion study field work the last week of April. Rosemary was able to gain new understanding of forestry and watershed issues before her return to Maryland.

Recreation:

The Forest received nineteen applications for the JDSF recreation user's group task force. Staff is working on the Task Force structure and preparing to interview the applicants.

Campground maintenance and limited repairs are underway to prepare for season opening in May.

Applications for Camp Host are being accepted.

All day-use areas remain open.

Permitted mushroom picking continues to remain high.

Roads:

Designated roads remain closed for the season to minimize potential for damage to the road system and environment.

Illegal use of the forest by OHVs and full size four wheel drive vehicles continues to result in damage to road surfaces.

The Resource Conservation District is preparing grant proposals for road decommissioning and upgrades.

Law Enforcement:

Illegal abandonment of vehicles and garbage dumping remain a significant problem.

Staff has received numerous reports and is investigating possible marijuana cultivation within the Forest.

Illegal camping has increased this month.

LE staff responded to a suspicious vehicle in the vicinity of Chamberlain Creek Camp. The investigation is continuing.

Numerous juvenile parties and fires are occurring. Cutting of trees and burning of refuse occurs during these events.