

Draft Minutes
Subcommittee on Late Seral Stage Development
Meeting at Fort Bragg, Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Peter Braudrick, Linwood Gill, John Helms (ch), Kevin O'Hara, Dan Porter, Brad Valentine

JAG Members: Kathy Bailey, Linda Perkins, Forrest Tilley

Public: Mitch Clogg (field trip only), Loraine Duff, Lari Shea, Lori Hubbart

Staff: Marc Jameson, Crawford Tuttle, Lynn Webb, Pam Linstedt

Minutes:

The meeting opened at 9:00 a.m. with introductions. Crawford Tuttle summarized the goals of the Subcommittee as:

- 1) Summarize existing literature on treatments that lead to late seral stage development on redwood forests.
- 2) For the Brandon Gulch THP, develop at least one conceptual prescription for managing the stands to enhance late seral stage development with provisions for demonstrations. Recommendations from JAG to be received by CAL FIRE by August 9, 2008.
- 3) For the Camp 3 THP, develop several (three) conceptual prescriptions. Identify any baseline monitoring desirable to support low-level applied research that can be carried out within existing resources. Recommendations from JAG to be received by CAL FIRE by September 19, 2008.

The group spent the morning examining and discussing stand conditions including forest health, understory, wildlife, streamside buffers, recreational considerations, and other matters at two sites on the Camp 3 THP and one site on the Brandon Gulch THP.

The afternoon was spent developing details of addressing Subcommittee goals with the following outcomes:

- 1) Staff will develop a 2-3 page statement (with accompanying tables and charts) on existing stand conditions for each site (Brandon Gulch and Camp 3). Information summarized will include a stand table of species distribution by size classes, basal area, and volume together with descriptions of variability in site quality and vegetation, ecology, and soil stability, and information on plant and animal species, threatened and endangered species, and other ecological and environmental matters to be considered in developing prescriptions.
- 2) Peter Braudrick and Lari Shea will prepare a 1-2 page statement on potential recreational/ aesthetic factors, uses, and viewsheds. Lari operates a local equestrian concession that provides rides within JDSF.
- 3) The group discussed definitions of "late-seral," critical to the sub-committee's purpose and JDFS' long-term management. Dan Porter and Kevin O'Hara will prepare a 1-2 page statement summarizing what is known in the literature regarding characteristics of old redwood forest conditions pertaining to central Mendocino County and silvicultural

prescriptions aimed at leading towards late seral stage development. This material will guide specification of desired, future stand conditions at Brandon Gulch and Camp 3.

4) Brad Valentine will prepare a 1-2-page statement summarizing what the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships system and/or the JDSF FEIR predicts as the wildlife response to late-seral development.

5) The Subcommittee identified the following criteria that will likely be used to identify late seral conditions:

- Species composition
- Density (basal area and stand density index)
- Tree size
- Live crown ratios
- Vertical structure and canopy density
- Horizontal structure and spatial distributions
- Regeneration and understory
- Snags and coarse woody debris

This list will be modified at later Subcommittee meetings. The Subcommittee will visit older stands on JDSF to consider the usefulness of local stands to provide reference conditions as a basis for establishing targets.

6) Possible prescriptions at Camp 3 were identified as:

- 1) Attaining late seral condition through a series of light and frequent treatments
- 2) Attaining late seral condition through a series of heavier and infrequent treatments
- 3) Control

The three treatments could be applied on each of four aspects, resulting in 12 treatment areas. Later Subcommittee meetings will consider whether such an approach is feasible and/or desirable.

7) Factors to be considered for baseline monitoring in Camp 3 will likely be based on the final list of criteria identified as describing late seral conditions (item 5 above). Dan Porter will provide information from other studies that have identified monitoring criteria. Brad Valentine expressed some reservations regarding monitoring wildlife responses to the treatments: 1) scale may be too small to evaluate wide-ranging species responses; 2) depending on the design, the monitoring may have little basis for extrapolation; and 3) the probability of a single year pre-manipulation weakens the likelihood of detecting wildlife responses. Problems with the latter could be reduced through study design.

8) The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 23, in the CAL FIRE office, Fort Bragg, with the agenda of examining GIS information on the two sites, running computer simulations of stand growth projection under alternative prescriptions, and finalizing approaches to prescriptions on the two sites.

The Subcommittee thanks members of JAG, the public, and staff for their very active participation and constructive input that helped guide discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.