

Jackson Advisory Group Meeting, May 9-10, 2008, Fort Bragg

Minutes of Meeting

Friday, May 9

0900 – 1700

In introductory remarks, John stressed two challenges for the JAG, building trust and a frank, open discussion. The JAG needs to inform the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as well as the Department.

Revenues from harvesting on the State Forests go into the FRIF fund. In the past, the FRIF fund has funded a variety of the Department's programs. Recent legislation has limited the use of State Forest generated FRIF funds to use only on the State Forests.

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Research and Science Committee will interact directly with the JAG, to vet research opportunities with the JAG and establish research priorities for the Board and the State Forests.

Bagley-Keene Act:

Advisory Committees are bound by the Bagley-Keene Act, the "Open Meeting Law". The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that when an official body makes a decision, the basis upon which that decision is made is available to the public. If you have a conversation outside of the JAG meetings discussing issues that are germane to a decision you are going to make on an aspect related to the JAG Charter, you have to disclose it in the next JAG meeting, so that the basis on which any decision is made is not secret.

Avoid deliberating outside the official JAG deliberations that are noticed and agendaized, resulting in the public and the rest of the JAG members not knowing what transpired during these ex parte deliberations.

If contacts are made between JAG members outside an official publicly noticed and agendaized meeting, a serial meeting can result if the additive (serial) number of JAG members consulted between meetings adds up to a quorum. A quorum constitutes 7 people in the case of the 13-member JAG. Serial meetings constitute a violation of the Bagley-Keene Act.

A meeting has to be scheduled 10 days in advance, with the complete agenda. There has to be a time for public participation in every meeting.

Sub-committees consisting of 3 or more people are subject to Bagley-Keene. They must be publicly noticed and agendaized. Eric encouraged not to look at Bagley-Keene as an obstacle, but rather a great opportunity for public involvement. They have been hugely beneficial to the Board of Forestry.

Russ Henly is the official liaison to the JAG for the purposes of arranging meetings, etc.

Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest occurs if you have a direct financial interest in something that could be materially impacted by the actions of the JAG. It could be real estate values affected by decisions

made by the JAG, litigations the outcome of which could be influenced by the JAG, or contract projects at JDSF that could be influenced by JAG decisions. Largely a matter of scale, there are no cut and dried answer to all situations. The word is “direct” in deciding if a conflict exists.

The solution is to recuse yourself from those deliberations pertaining to your financial interest.

Litigation is considered a financial interest. If in doubt, call the FPPC. Their web site has several different guidelines for determining if further consultation is needed.

Gifts in excess of \$49.99 are reportable.

Charter and Responsibilities

The charter contains a process for the JAG to modify/add to the charter.

Eric Huff will provide the charter for the Board's Research and Science committee to Russ for distribution to the JAG.

John requested that information, characteristics of non-industrial private landowners be made available to the JAG. Russ agreed the Department would provide this information for the next meeting.

The use of facilitators was discussed. The JAG will consider the possibility of using a facilitator for future meetings with especially difficult and controversial subjects.

Minutes of the Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group (DSFAG) and the JAG will be sent to the respective groups. It was agreed minutes of the JAG meetings shall be published within 5 days of the meeting. Minutes should be kept brief and focused on action items.

Option A Plan and THP's

The near-finished Option A plan (sustained yield analysis) and its associated THP, the Northfork Spur, will come to the JAG for review before the next meeting.

The next THP, the 14 Gulch timber sale, is involved in the settlement negotiations for the enjoined THP's. It will go directly to implementation without formal JAG review. The 14 Gulch THP will be made available to the JAG for information purposes.

The objectives of the JAG sub-committee for the enjoined THPs is to provide recommendations on late seral silvicultural prescriptions, balance those prescriptions with recreation and conservation issues, and provide recommendations on research and demonstration.

Saturday, May 10

0900 – 1230 Sub-Group to Review Enjoined THPs

The Department has agreed to new marking objectives for the Brandon Gulch and Camp 3 timber sales (the enjoined THPs), to emphasize the development of late seral stand characteristics. The Director would like input from the JAG on what the silvicultural prescriptions to accomplish this may look like.

The JAG decided to form a sub-group to study this issue. This THP sub-group will provide recommendations to the JAG, which in turn will provide its recommendations to the Director. Composition of the THP Sub Group: 2 to 3 JAG members, 2 or 3 outside experts. Work must be completed by Thanksgiving, November 2008. The Department needs time to implement the recommendations for operations next Spring.

Planned timeline: several iterations of feedback between the THP Sub Group and the JAG are anticipated before a final set of recommendations emerge. The THP sub-group will first report to JAG in June. Ideally, the JAG would finalize its recommendations in August, but it could easily take longer (up until the November deadline).

Key Tasks for the THP Sub Group:

- Synthesize existing literature (outside experts). Make an informed judgement of what kind of prescriptions to demonstrate on Brandon.
- Recommendations to Department on silvicultural prescriptions to be used in order to accelerate the development of late seral conditions.
- Baseline monitoring for Camp 3.

Camp 3 will likely need more substantial modifications than Brandon Gulch. The Department will need correspondingly more time to implement recommendations.

Appointees to the THP sub-group, by informal vote of the full JAG:

John Helms (Chair) . Broad overview of conservation, forest management. Silviculture, stand dynamics. Integrator.

Dan Porter. Ecology of redwood forests. Integration. Rare plants.

Brad Valentine. Wildlife biology. Late successional associated species.

Linwood Gill. Silviculture. Practical considerations of what can be done on the ground.

The selection of outside experts was left largely to John's discretion. Three subject matter areas were identified:

Silviculture/stand dynamics(Kevin O'Hara)

Education/outreach (Greg Giusti)

Recreation (TBA).

John will contact the outside experts regarding their willingness to serve. Over and above the core outside experts, other areas of expertise such as botany and cultural resources may be pulled in as the need arises.

1230-1330 Lunch

1330 – 1530 JAG Work Plan

The afternoon discussion focused on what the JAG needs to achieve, how to organize ourselves, and the development of a work plan

Target Dates for Future Meetings, 2008:

June 12-13.

July 11-12.

August 8-9.

September 12-13.

October 10-11.

November 14-15.

December 12-13.

Flip Chart 1, JAG Charter

1. Structure, goals.
2. Long-term goals.
 - a) LSD
 - b) OFSZ's
3. Old growth.
 - Hardwoods
 - Invasives
 - Residual old growth.
4. Recreation.
5. Other (Director?)
vs. JAG
6. Herbicides.

Flip Chart 2 and 3, Elements Needed for the Charter

Structure: management plan is general (Jere)

Stick to Plan (e.g. LSD)

- task of sub-group

1. Fire
2. Budgets needed
3. Inventory and monitoring
4. Road plan
5. Riparian structure
6. Adaptive management plan
7. Details of stand information, especially older stands and old growth
8. Regeneration history
9. Staffing needs, road blocks
10. Research/demonstration, technology transfer
11. Facilities
12. Woodlands area
13. Partnerships and clients
14. identify issues, organize and integrate

Discussion: John will take a stab at integration of the above with regards to work tasks for the sub-groups, and send to the whole group for review.

Flip Chart 4, Top Tier Issues

I. Forest Structure.

Members: Dan Porter (Lead)
Kathy Bailey
Brad Valentine
Mike Jani
Linda Perkins

Elements: Fire
Silviculture
Stand distribution
Herbicides

II. Science / Demonstration / Outreach

Members: Mike Liquori (Lead)
Dan Porter
Brad Valentine
Mike Jani
Vince Taylor

Elements: Outreach
Partnerships
Clients
Inventory
Research design/options
Adaptive management planning

III. Forest Management

Members: Peter Baudrick (Lead)
Jere Mello
Forrest Tilley
Vince Taylor
Mike Anderson

Elements: Budgets
Facilities
Roads
Recreation
Inventory/monitoring

Discussion: Mike Liquori suggested the above organizational scheme, and suggested it will give us an optimal structure to organize our thinking about how the 15 elements in flip charts 2 and 3 tie into the 6 Charter issues in flip chart 1.

Work products are due to the full JAG 3 days before the June meeting.

John would like input on this organizational scheme from the full JAG before move forward with sub-group work.

Flip Chart 5

Public “Hearing” on Sub Groups?

Or at Board of Forestry?

Leading to recommendations

Ensure public involvement prior to recommendations to the Board.

Done through announcement of JAG.

Focused workshops

Local rather than BOF.

Discussion: some discussion and confusion exists on the issue of public notification of sub-group meetings.

Flip Chart 6

Issues

How much reserves?

How much clearcut?

What is “ecological managed forests”?

June agenda: include a field trip pertaining to agenda, e.g. 14 Gulch.

Flip Chart 7

Product

Issues of Concern – matrix? / relationships

Information available / needed

Work plan

Discussion:

Each sub-group will work independently as a group, with the lead for each group as noted. The sub-groups are rather informal, and other JAG members are free to join the discussion of each sub-group. Each sub-group will report back to the full JAG at the next meeting. Each sub-group will independently distribute (email) any results / reports / communications independently to all the members of the full JAG, two weeks prior to the next full JAG meeting.

Sub-group work products: John suggested very succinct bullet points, rather than prose.

John issued a standing invitation for agenda items for the next JAG meeting in June.