

**Report of Meeting of the Recreation Committee of the
Jackson Advisory Group**

June 28, 2008

Recreation Committee Meeting Summary

On June 28, 2008, the Recreation Committee of the Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) had its first meeting. In addition to Committee members Peter Braudrick and Vince Taylor, about 30 avid recreationists attended.

A brief introduction stressed that both the new management plan and the charter of the JAG mandate the development of expanded recreation opportunities in Jackson Forest. Now is the time for the community to make known its desires and to help design the recreation plan for the forest. The JAG has through 2010 to develop its recommendations for changes to the management plan. A recreation plan can be a part of the JAG's recommendations. Unlike the past, Cal Fire is receptive to public input, and there will be funding to support recreation.



Hikers in Brandon Gulch
Jackson Forest

Five different recreation interests were represented, with many people supporting multiple interests: Hiking, Off Road Vehicles (OHV), Bicycling, Equestrian, and Shooting. It was wonderful to see the respect, empathy, and mutual support expressed by almost everyone in the room. Everyone was excited by the obvious opportunity to see more and better recreation in Jackson Forest.

The meeting broke into sub-groups to come up with points, goals, and priorities. Then each group presented its findings to the meeting as a whole, receiving comments and questions. There were common points among the groups. Almost everyone wanted an inventory and good maps of the present trails. There was a strong desire to expand the trail system. Also, the different groups wanted to be able to find ways to let each group have its favorite recreation without harming others' pleasure in the forest.

I can summarize the feeling that pervaded the meeting in a few words: **Respect, Enthusiasm, Anticipation.**

Each group wrote up a report of the points coming out of its discussion. These are published [here](#). Also, and importantly, they are published as separate posts on the new [Jackson Forum Blog](#). At the Forum, you can easily add your ideas, suggestions, and questions to the area of recreation that interests you the most.

Please take the time to visit [Jackson Forum](#) and add your ideas and thoughts to the appropriate place. If you have an interest not represented in the reports, please add your thoughts in a comment to the posts. Contact me if you want to make your own post.

The meeting was a great beginning. The next step will be a presentation of the results of this meeting to the Jackson Advisory Group at approximately 9:30 a.m., Saturday, July 12, 2008. [Agenda](#) . Participants will summarize their points and answer questions. You can comment, too.

Let's make Jackson Forest into the recreation paradise that it should be!

Vince

Bicyclist Group Report

By Ray Duff

Meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Jackson Advisory Group, June 28, 2008.

Participants: Ray Duff, Rick Riley, Chris Clutton, Jim Moorehead, and Jerry Blok

Results of short-term discussion of needs for bicyclists in Jackson Demonstration State Forest not necessarily in order of importance

1. Staging areas needed for recreation. A place to park, unload and load bicycles, safe to leave vehicles.
2. Longer trails for cyclists Connector trails and loop trails preferred. Dead end trails do not offer as much enjoyment for riders. Trails that loop or connect with other trails to allow longer rides for those who want ten to twenty miles of recreational use trail.
3. Maps are needed showing all trails, include loop trails, roads, staging areas.
4. Connecting trails between watersheds
5. There are problems with homeless and dope growers in State Forest. Cyclists are aware there are people living outdoors in forest and some illegal gardens, these pose special needs and concerns.
6. Signs are needed for trails, posted at trailhead and at intersections along trail
 - a. Identified trails are one way travelers do not get lost
 - b. Signs advise distance to objective, and rigor of trail.
 - c. Signs establish an identity for the trail that can be referred to in logging plans and decommissioning of roads.
7. Multi use trails with rating on use – these can advise on need for closure during seasons. Trail use for some trails might have to be restricted in wet weather for protection of environment, and closed entirely at certain times.
8. Signs to find Jackson State recreation areas from Hwy 20, and at Camp 1, and Red Schoolhouse.
9. Post rules for trail use at trailheads and staging areas include restricted trails; e.g. trails only for hikers, or those trails for multi use, and locations of hazards.
10. Shooters deserve a separate area away from trail users, possibly out of sound distance with location well marked for persons who might happen into the perimeter.
11. Safe access for neighbors of the JDSF. There are property owners who live against or near the Forest. These need an opening to Forest that is safe.
12. Concern for timber operations that would inhibit trail use. Logging plans ought to include alternative recreational directions. If a logging plan includes cutting

near recreational trails, an alternative area for recreation ought to be designated that is user friendly, easily accessible and in condition for use.

13. Roads may need to be decommissioned for environmental necessity, but previous road closures have left few alternatives for established recreational use. Consideration should be given to bridges, other amenities, and mitigations to promote recreational use.
14. Recreational Users of JDSF ought to be notified and allowed comment and input prior to road closures or decommission of roads.
15. A recreational crossing of Highway 20 is needed that avoids need to interface with traffic, possibly a tunnel under the highway. This would need to be a multi user passage.

Equestrian Group Report

By Forrest Tancer

Meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Jackson Advisory Group, June 28, 2008.

Participants: Forrest Tancer, Stacey Bradley, and Lorraine Duff,

1. Designate and develop multi-use trailheads including Camp 1, Schoolhouse, Road 450.
 - A. improve parking access
 - B. possible manure boxes
 - C. toilet facilities
 - D. signage designating small and large loops from trailheads
2. Develop horse water on designated trails
3. Develop network of volunteers to maintain designated trails
4. Expand and modernize existing horse camps to accommodate larger trailers etc.
5. Designate some existing camping areas at Camp 1 to allow for horses
6. Create new map of JDSF that identifies hiking, biking, ATV, Equestrian trails and shooting areas.
7. Promote JDSF as a horseback riding destination in Mendocino County

Hiking Group Report

By Nancy Banker

Meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Jackson Advisory Group, June 28, 2008.

Participants: Nancy McCarthy, Agnes Wilson, David Jensen, Jim Moorehead, Linda Perkins, Mary Lou Brewer, Annie LeBus and Nancy Banker

Nancy McCarthy provided background on the work she did 10 years ago to produce 20 hiking maps of trails in JSDF. David advised the group that there are funds available, with a grant application, to secure funds for printing maps. He will help secure the funds.

We agreed that the first steps would include:

1. Inventory the existing trails
2. Survey and mark them
3. Clean up the trails
4. Record the level of difficulty
5. Create maps and publish them
6. Make maps readily available online
7. Request an inventory from the JAG

The group members expressed a desire for:

1. More localized maps (see above) of hiking trails
2. Well marked trails and trail-heads
3. Cabins, way-stations and/or camping areas throughout so that hikers can hike in, camp for the night and continue hiking
4. Connect trails within JSDF to facilitate hiking from one area to another throughout the forest
5. Connect trails to other areas in the county such as private areas that allow public access, other public parks and forests and BLM land (ala the Coast trail)
6. Establish a "Friends of the Jackson State Demonstration Forest" to help with trail building and maintenance
7. Connect with other organizations to assist in trail-building and maintenance such as Americorps. and the local ROP office.
8. Develop theme trails, e.g., birding. botanical trails and historical trails.
9. Develop educational information and materials to help educate the public regarding the trails and the history of JSDF.
10. Create more trails to reduce the establishment of social trails.
11. Participate and support the eradication of invasive, non-native plants
12. Reserve a portion of the forest for the flora and fauna.
13. Create a vita course.
14. Connect with other agencies and organizations to assist with the development of hiking trails and their maintenance, such as the Sierra Club and the Audubon society.

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Report

By Ryan Whitaker

Meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Jackson Advisory Group, June 28, 2008.

OHV Group participants: Steve Colombi, Ryan Whitaker, Mark Hontou, Joye Silva & Joyce Blok. The other member who attended the meeting supporting OHV recreation, but left before our discussion, was Steve Dunlap.

OHV (ATV'S, DIRTBIKES, MOTORIZED VEHICLES)

NEEDS:

- Motorized cycle trails for ATV's, dirt bikes, (possibly jeeps)
- Staging area with camping - parking for street vehicles, bathrooms, water, trash/recycling facilities,
- Marked and maintained trails
- Ranger patrol (authority) - regulations according to state rules (sound, spark arrestors, "quiet time" hours, etc.

RESULTS:

- Revenue from campsites
- Gas purchase = % to OHV (more revenue!)
- OHV Registration (green sticker) - protect legal places to ride.
- Safe environment for kids/families to ride (demonstrate legal v's illegal to set good example for our youth)
- Exercise/skills for our children's health.
- Develop an appreciation for our environment by being responsible and legal

APPROPRIATE LOCATION:

- Less impact to residential areas
- Adequate off road space that includes access for all
- Specific areas for NO motorized vehicles
- Will share trails

MOTORIZED VEHICLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE:

- Volunteer groups to organize and maintain trail maintenance
- "Adopt a Trail" campaigns
- Access existing OHV funding for money needs

Shooting Group Report

By Don Hooper

Meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Jackson Advisory Group, June 28, 2008.

Shooting Group participants: Don Hooper and Peter Maitlin (Redwood Practical Shooters), Joan Selchau, Arlene Moorehead

The following points were discussed by the shooting group at the Recreation Committee of the Jackson Advisory Group on June 28, 2008:

- Continued use of Redwood Practical Shooters range on road 450.
- Continued improvement of the site (range).
- Teach the safe handling of defensive firearms
- Teach CCW permit classes with certified instructors
- Work with CDF/JDSF to remedy the situation at the quarry -- alleged unsafe shooting area with increased population in the area. Junk and dumping of garbage in quarry. Shooting allegedly out of control.
- Creation of a full service range (Rifle, pistol, shotgun). 200yds minimum (Supervised, alcohol free and maintained) under the supervision of CDF/JDSF and Redwood Practical Shooters.

Northern California Trail Council (NCTC) Points

Submitted to the Recreation Committee by Cynthia LeDoux, July 3, 2008

There were several important points which should be included along with the points of the group reports of June 28, 2008:

1. Rd. 500 and 600 should be included as a main staging areas/trailheads.
2. Trailhead/Access from Mitchell Creek Rd./ JSDf 511 near Shoreline Arena should be (re)created and opened to equestrians, hikers, and bikers. Develop parking area.
3. Maps should have GPS coordinates(NAD 83/ Waypoints) trailheads should have waypoint markers, and website should have both. This way clear, concise reports can be made to CDF/JSDf, user groups can program their GPS, and use can be assessed and monitored to prioritize maintenance activities.
4. Teaming with the other equestrian non-profit user groups such as the Northern California Trail Council (NCTC) and Shoreline Riders, Inc. (SRI)and the cycle club for trail improvements, patrol purposes, and funding of new water supply facilities such as the partnership happening between JSDf(Horvat) and NCTC (LeDoux) for the new water tank near Indian Springs.
5. JDFS should be one part of the larger Mendocino County Trails System with developed linkages with State Parks' including Jug Handle, Big River, the Woodlands and cooperating private landowners. Keeping a larger vision in mind when considering trail development and/or decommission.
6. The historic and recorded Little Lake-Sherwood Trail should be repaired and maintained as it connects Willits to Mendocino through Parks, JDSF, and County Roads.
7. Investigate the development of easements w/ Campbell, MRC, and The Conservation Fund to maintain existing trails such as the JDSF 330- CMT 1000 (?), TCF to Big River State Park, etc...

Lastly, defining trailhead vs. staging area is really important as the groups appear to have interchanged the two words.

These are some of the big points that I can think of off the top of my head. I will give this more thought between now and the 11th.

Cynthia LeDoux
Northern California Trail Council, president
Shoreline Riders, Inc, secretary

Woodlands Outdoor Center Points

**Submitted to the Recreation Committee by Don Taylor (Director) and
Jeanne Coleman, June 27, 2008**

- 1) No logging in the special treatment area surrounding the Woodlands. (goal: inclusion of the special treatment area into state parks)
- 2) Provide recreational access in the form of hiking, biking, and horsetrails...connecting the different parks and communities.
- 3) Provide wildlife corridors...contiguous wildland areas for animals to move and breed.
- 4) Environmental or backcountry campsites