

# **Recommendations of the Jackson Forest Working Group**

June 20, 2007

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## **Preface**

This document contains the recommendations of the Mendocino Working Group on Jackson Forest. These recommendations are contained in its principle report, published November 30, 2006 and two followup letters published in February and June 2007.

The Jackson Forest Working Group consists of six people in Mendocino County who have been intimately involved with Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF): the owners and the manager of the three largest surviving timber mills in the county, the owner of the logging company that performed the bulk of the logging operations in JDSF until logging was halted in 2001, the Sierra Club person most closely involved with Jackson Forest policy, and the head of the Campaign to Restore Jackson State Redwood Forest, which brought the legal actions that have stopped all logging since 2001.

The group came together voluntarily, on the members' own initiative, to see if they could resolve the long-standing differences that have made Jackson Forest a local and state-wide focal point of controversy. The group began meeting in late August and met at least once each month through November 2006 and then periodically thereafter.

Recent developments appeared to create an opportunity for the working group to make a useful contribution. The newly appointed Director of the California Department of Forestry, Ruben Grijalva, had publicly given his support to making Jackson State into a "world-class research forest" and to seeking a consensus among all parties. He had initiated discussions with the Campaign to Restore Jackson State Redwood Forest. Legislation was passed that stopped the former practice of funding a variety of state forestry programs from Jackson Forest logging revenues. The Board of Forestry, which has the responsibility for setting policies for Jackson State, had recently begun developing a new policy alternative focused on research and demonstration, with fish and wildlife habitat, forest ecology, recreation, and education as important values. At the same time, the Board's efforts to meet the court's 2003 directive to revise the environmental impact report for the forest appeared to be stalled, and in the background was the threat of another legal challenge in the future.

The group operated from the beginning on the principle of consensus. We felt that only by coming to a shared viewpoint could the group become an effective force for change. The first goal that the group adopted was to develop a path for getting Jackson Forest back into operation, hopefully in 2007. Very early, we agreed that we didn't have the information, resources, or authority to develop a management plan for the forest. What we sought was to develop a set of unanimously agreed-upon **principles** to apply to developing a plan and managing the forest.

Once we felt that we were going to succeed in agreeing on management principles, we turned to the more difficult task: setting out a path and process for developing a management plan incorporating our principles, while simultaneously meeting legal and bureaucratic constraints, environmental concerns and providing for near-term timber harvesting (in order to finance building forest staffing, needed forest maintenance, and development of a detailed management plan, and to provide logs to help maintain the viability of the local timber industry).

All of us involved feel that we've come to a workable solution, one that fairly balances timber, conservation, and recreation interests.

Note that the initial report and first followup letter were signed by five of the six members of the working group. The final letter was signed by all members.

## **Working Group Members**

Mike Anderson	Anderson Logging Inc.
Kathy Bailey	Sierra Club
Bruce Burton	Willits Redwood Company
Mike Jani	Mendocino Redwood Company
Art Harwood	Harwood Products
Vince Taylor	Campaign to Restore Jackson State Redwood Forest

## ***Acknowledgement***

The group was invaluable aided by the skilled facilitation of Steve Zuieback. We definitely share the consensus opinion that we could never have achieved what we did without Steve.

We owe him double thanks because he generously donated his services, motivated by his belief in the public importance of our work and his desire to serve his local community.

Steve's primary dedication is to assist in improving the educational performance of public schools. The key focus of his work now is in the area of building deep leadership and facilitation capacity within large organizations and systems, especially in educational systems. In this regard, he is currently working with Riverside County Office of Education in the state-wide Focused Monitoring Program, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Desert Mountain SELPA and with Sacramento City Unified School District. More at: <http://www.stevezuieback.com>

## **Section 1**

November 30, 2006

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,

As you know our group has been meeting in Mendocino County for the past few months exploring ways to move the JDSF Management Plan process forward. Over the years our members have been involved in numerous forestry issues from the Grand Accord to County Rules to SB 1648. Historically we have been on opposing sides. This process has been unique in that we have reached consensus on an approach we believe has the potential to get JDSF back under management.

While we have reached consensus on numerous issues, the enjoined timber harvest plans were not among them. These plans were sold and operated, then stopped as a result of the lawsuit. An equitable resolution to this problem is still needed. In spite of their involvement in this process, the purchasers have not given up any of their legal rights to the two sales.

Our approach to moving the management plan process forward is comprised of two phases. Phase one incorporates the guiding principles we have been developing with the Research and Demonstration focus that Bill Stewart has been designing as the new Preferred Alternative 8. With the adoption of this first phase and the finalization and certification of the EIR, timber harvesting can resume on an interim basis. This interim resumption of harvesting will be guided by the principles in the management plan and the specific criteria developed by this group.

Phase two will be a concurrent and parallel process. This phase will be highlighted by the re-staffing of JDSF including personnel with a broad range of expertise in addition to silviculture, the appointment of a Jackson Advisory Group, the commencement of landscape-level planning on a broad array of issues and the establishment of a credible and verifiable inventory. Our group anticipates this process will result in a detailed and sustainable long term plan for JDSF. This second phase will develop a plan based on detailed specific information that provides for a consensus-based balancing of ecological values, education, research, recreation, timber production and regional economic stability.

This group realizes it has no authority to develop a management plan for JDSF and the Board has no mandate to follow the template provided. Logic however would suggest when a group as diverse as ours can come to consensus on this topic, it deserves some serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Burton

Art Harwood

Vince Taylor

Kathy Bailey

Mike Jani

Mike Anderson

Attachments:

- 1.) The guiding principles this group developed for management of JDSF.
- 2.) Interim harvesting criteria.
- 3.) A flow chart of the implementation process.

## **Section 2**

### **Principles for the Management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest**

November 30, 2006

#### **Research and Demonstration:**

Research and demonstration (R&D) should be the driving force behind all harvest operations on JDSF. The forgoing does not preclude harvest operations designed for manipulation of stand structure for future research. Additional R&D emphasis needs to be directed towards small land owner needs. The following are specific research suggestions:

1. Research and demonstration geared toward small land owners interested in economically maintaining and improving the health, beauty, and recreational value of their holdings.
2. Exploring ways to make timber harvesting more acceptable to the general public should be an important part of the R&D program.
3. The R&D program should test the benefits and or problems associated with forest practice rules existing and under consideration.
4. R&D should explore the process and benefits to wildlife and the aquatic environment of turning even age stands into all aged stands.
5. A integral part of the R&D program should be a well developed economic analysis of these different approaches so land owners and regulators can make the cost to benefit analysis.

#### **Silviculture:**

All timber harvest activities on JDSF should preserve or improve the long term forest health. Selection silviculture should be maximized. Even aged management should only be allowed for well justified research projects and as necessary to promote stand health. The size and scope of these projects should be no larger than the minimum needed for scientific validity. Group selection plots will be the minimum size consistent with wildlife concerns and obtaining regeneration, they will only be used when justified as the most ecologically beneficial way to obtain needed regeneration and or habitat. Variable retention should be used sparingly. When used it should be associated with research, stand health, wildlife concerns, and have higher than average retention levels. None of the above should be construed to prohibit the entire spectrum of harvesting intensity and or frequency as long as it is tied to research.



## **Herbicides:**

Herbicides would only be used as a last resort after demonstrating an exhaustive evaluation of all other alternatives in dealing with a specific forest problem. The evaluation of alternatives would also look at the consequences of taking action and of taking no action at all. If herbicides are then considered they would be used as part of a scientifically designed study to answer specific research questions. Under such circumstances the smallest number of acres would be used to achieve the research answers. A maximum acreage cap would be established, and the research would be designed in such a way to minimize the need for future use of herbicides.

## **Old Growth and Mature Forest Stands:**

The remnant stands of original forest that have not ever been harvested should be preserved so as to provide a baseline from which comparisons can be made. Using these areas as cores, logical corridors, buffers, and extensions should be developed, utilizing existing older second growth stands when possible, to provide habitat for species associated with the late seral stages of forest development and to provide opportunities for human enjoyment. When these habitat areas overlap an older second growth stand, at a minimum, a portion, or at a maximum, all of that stand should be considered for inclusion into designation for a “late seral” management alternative. Within this management unit, the old growth cores shall remain unharvested, while the second growth components may be subject to some harvest designed to accelerate development of late seral characteristics.

Scattered individual remnant old growth trees identified as such because of size, special characteristics, or known stand history, should be protected from harvest unless they pose a hazard to persons, property, or natural resource values. Additionally, at a minimum, immediately adjacent trees or trees which are close enough to influence growth and form of the retained old growth tree, shall be retained.

However, if after careful study including examination of the canopy, a known old growth tree is determined to be without any identifiable old growth characteristics, and other trees of the same species in the same height class will be retained, in conjunction with a research project to confirm the determination, the old growth tree may be harvested and utilized.

Old growth trees mistakenly cut due to misjudgment of age or absence of old growth characteristics shall be left in the woods to provide large wood on the forest floor and for wildlife refuge.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species:**

Given that this is a publicly owned forest, sufficient acreage should be dedicated towards management alternatives that specifically contribute to the maintenance and recovery of the region's threatened and endangered species.

### **Wildlife and Riparian Management:**

Recognizing the unique positive regional status of the wildlife and riparian habitats in JDSF, develop overall wildlife and riparian management strategies consistent with a balance of economic, environmental, and recreational goals and objectives. These strategies are to be implemented through all management activities (see also, principles for Old Growth and Mature Forest Stands and Threatened and endangered Species)

All management activities need to be evaluated as to how they impact or enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat.

JDSF should scientifically explore the benefits and problems associated with various riparian management strategies and their contributions to salmon recovery.

Until research results provide a scientific basis for estimating the effects of alternative riparian management regimes, JDSF should take a very conservative approach toward timber harvesting in riparian zones other than in conjunction with the research program.

### **Timber Revenues:**

Harvest levels should be determined by the needs of the forest, the guiding principles, as reflected in the management plan, not a revenue target. All revenue from JDSF sales should be re-invested back into the forest first; excess can be put to use by the state forest system and, in infrequent emergency situations, by other natural resource programs. The top priority should be funding an on-going timber sale program which will help to generate revenue to fund other programs including, but not limited to: demonstration, research, recreation, and infrastructure improvements. JDSF timber revenue should be augmented through grant funding, or general fund dollars, depending upon the type of programs the forest is trying to support. If there is not sufficient funding for all identified programs, funding will be allocated on a priority basis.

## **Jackson Advisory Group:**

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

Purpose: Initially to participate in the development of the Phase II management plan and to review and field evaluate the implementation of the proposed 2007 and 2008 Timber Harvest Plans. Subsequent responsibilities would include field based evaluations (prospective and retrospective) which would provide information for future research and management activities.

Participation: Open nominations, appointed 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 Board of Forestry in an advisory capacity. Decision making would preferably be consensus based.

Term: 2 years, staggered.

Support staff: Permanent position, CDF staff with an independent facilitator.

## **Education:**

Part of the legislative mandate for JDSF has never been adequately fulfilled; education needs to become a high priority. The forest has a unique opportunity to reach out to and educate the general public on issues associated with ecology, biological diversity, forest processes, forest management etc.

## **Roads:**

The inventory and improvement plan should be finalized as a matter of highest priority and work scheduled on an accelerated basis.

## **Budgeting:**

JDSF should not load the forest maintenance and operational costs on the timber sales. These costs should be funded through a budgeting process for JDSF.

### **Staffing:**

The staff of JDSF needs to be augmented with recognized professionals to protect all public trust resources. This needs to be a team approach commensurate with being a world class leader in demonstration forestry.

### **Recreation:**

JDSF should identify, with citizen input, the recreational opportunities on the forest and develop a recreation action plan to advance such opportunities. This plan would be integrated with forest management and the ecological outcomes developed for the forest. This would include reaching out to recreational experts to help put this plan together. Trans-forest hiking and horse trails should be pursued, working with neighboring landowners. With public input, staff should explore ways to expand funding for the recreation program.

### **Data Collection:**

High Quality research requires accurate baseline and ongoing data on all forest components. Sufficient staffing at JDSF is critical to insure valid data collection. The following are minimum data collection needs at JDSF:

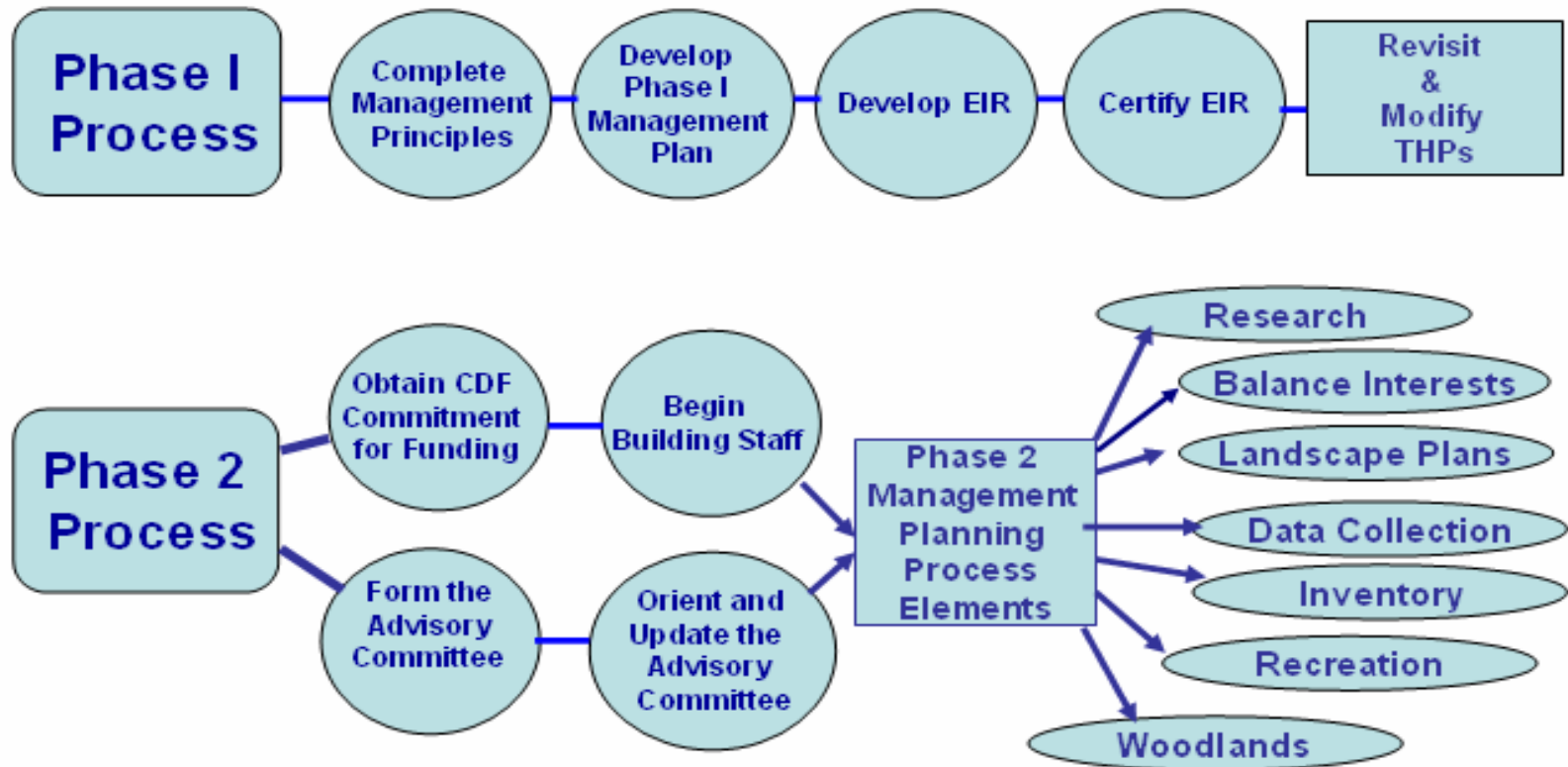
1. Credible forest inventory and growth information easily understandable by the general public.
2. A forest wide wildlife and botanicals inventory, and monitoring program.

### **Hardwood:**

As part of a research project, JDSF should work towards hardwood utilization as an alternative to herbicide use. This research should consist of: identifying what hardwood component is needed in the timber stand, how to manage hardwood for a high quality product, determine habitat contribution, economic return for the land owner, creation of employment opportunities and the development of a market for these hardwood products.

Section 3

## JDSF Planning & Implementation Process



**Phase 1 and 2 are to begin immediately and proceed simultaneously. Phase 2 should be complete in 3 years.**

## **Section 4**

### **Interim Harvesting Criteria**

We recognize the need for interim harvesting beginning in 2007 and for the duration of Phase I of the Management Plan development. This interim period should not exceed three years. During Phase I, Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) shall be submitted consistent with the following:

1. Utilize uneven aged management
2. Apply all silvicultural principles stated elsewhere in our recommendations.
3. Aim to generate sufficient revenue to fund the development of Phase II of the Management Plan, including rebuilding adequate staff at JDSF and implementing our recommendations for forest, wildlife and botanical inventories. In addition to financing routine operations, long term initiatives should be limited in Phase I to completion of the road inventory and rehabilitation plan, an expanded timber inventory and demonstration and research related expenditures.
4. THP locations should be chosen so they do not preclude future options for long-term landscape-level planning in Phase II.
5. To facilitate (4), every effort should be made to avoid harvesting areas that:
  - (a) have not been logged since 1925 or
  - (b) are mature second-growth stands contiguous with existing CDF-designated late seral development areas or adjacent to state park lands.
6. With the exception of the enjoined THPs, to assure harvesting in 2007 and 2008, emphasis should be placed on revising and finalizing harvest plans already in the system or those with the necessary field work completed.
7. If timely THP submission is not possible consistent with (5) the department may propose harvesting consistent with (1-4) using selection harvesting that removes no more than 30% of the conifer basal area of the stand, leaves at least 70% of the overstory stand canopy and maintains or increases the average stand diameter of the residual crop trees. Any such proposed plan shall be submitted to the Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group (DSFAG) for review. The DSFAG shall recommend to the director whether the plan should be submitted, modified or eliminated from consideration. At such time as the Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) informs the Director that it is willing to do so, JAG shall take over the Phase I THP review function from the DSFAG.
8. The enjoined THPs, Brandon Gulch and Camp 3, will be harvested, if at all, within the context of Phase II of the Management Plan.

## Section 5

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.*

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<sup>1</sup> *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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

## **Section 6**

June 20, 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 (Alternative G)

Dear Members of the Board,

The Mendocino Working Group (MWG) has been reviewing and discussing Alternative G. Subsequent to our MWG meeting on Tuesday, June 12, we decided it was appropriate to clarify our position on a few issues.

As we stated in our February letter we feel strongly the proposed Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) is essential to the long term success of this Management Plan. For the sake of transparency, credibility and effectiveness one advisory body needs to be in a leadership role during the interim period. Our group feels strongly this lead advisory body needs to be the JAG, in consultation with the other groups. In addition, as the MWG suggested in our February letter, we feel that the authority and effectiveness of the JAG would be strengthened by being appointed by the Director and ratified by the Board of Forestry. To maximize the effectiveness of the JAG, it should report to the Director on forest management implementation issues and to the Board on management policy issues.

Evenage management has always been a controversial subject and we feel some clarification is warranted here also. A goal of our recommendations is to provide the necessary flexibility for all research projects. Nothing in our principle statements was meant to preclude meaningful, scientifically designed evenage research projects during the interim period or into the future, with the important condition that the projects be of the minimum size required for scientific validity.

Some evenage management projects may conflict with some of Alternative G's stated goals, such as promoting forest health and ecological processes and providing enhanced opportunities for recreation and aesthetic enjoyment. Further, evenage management is extremely controversial within Mendocino County and the environmental community at large.

We recommend that great care be exercised before approving evenage management projects not directly tied to a specific research project or justified for forest health. We recognize that not all future research needs can be foreseen, but we feel that a workable planning process is needed to assure that stand manipulation for future research is appropriately balanced against the other goals for future conditions. Therefore, we recommend that decisions on stand structure for future unspecified research projects should be developed by JDSF staff in cooperation with researchers,

the Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group (DSFAG) and, when functioning, the JAG. The amount of evenage management should be the minimum that reasonably can be justified for future research projects that can't presently be anticipated.

We note there has been no revision of Jackson's residual old growth harvesting policy, which differs in significant ways from our recommendation. We believe review of this issue by the JAG is necessary to minimize potential future controversy.

The last issue the MWG would like to address is the short-term harvest proposal. We understood that the Board's EIR subcommittee accepted the MWG's concern that interim harvesting should not preclude future planning options and agreed to our recommendations for achieving this objective. We recommended that if THPs were to be proposed for sensitive areas in the interim period that they should **both** 1) meet the interim harvest restrictions, and 2) be submitted to the DSFAG or, when operational, the JAG for review. CDF developed a map that shows sensitive areas in purple (Alternative G Map Figure 2).

We are concerned that although the THPs in Section 1 of Table II.3 conform to the interim harvest restrictions recommended by the MWG, they are listed as **not** being subject to DSFAG or JAG review.

We believe that everyone's interests are in resuming operations in Jackson in a way that minimizes the chances for reigniting controversy. DSFAG or JAG review of sensitive THPs will significantly reduce the chances of a misstep. Such review will provide a forum for the public and provide the public with greater assurance that the THPs implemented in the interim period are chosen and designed so as to keep open future options for restoration, habitat, and recreation to the maximum extent feasible, consistent with the need to generate revenue to fund interim operations of the forest.

The MWG recommends that all interim-period THPs proposed for sensitive areas be reviewed by the DSFAG or JAG, provided the review does not unnecessarily impact JDSF staff's ability to move forward with the 2008 sale program.

We recognize the importance of resuming operations in Jackson Forest in 2008. The MWG does not want the recommended advisory committee review to disrupt the 2008 JDSF Timber Sales Program. At the same time, we would like to have as effective as possible review of proposed THPs consistent with this desire. To achieve these twin goals, we ask the department to 1) identify those THPs that are prime candidates for 2008 harvests and to have the DSFAG review these plans as soon as possible so that preparation of approved plans can proceed with assurance of acceptability, and 2) to expedite formation of the JAG so that it can take over the review process as soon as practicable.

The MWG would especially hope that the JAG could review the North Fork Spur and the West Chamberlain THPs, because both of these contain some unentered stands of old second growth and are in an area of high recreation potential.

One issue that still needs deliberation as this process moves forward is the final resolution of the two enjoined plans. Nothing in any of our correspondence is meant to state or imply that the contract holders of the two enjoined timber sales relinquish any right or expectations that their agreements will be fulfilled.

We are very appreciative of the Board's previous willingness to accept many of our recommendations. We hope that you will consider modification of Alternative G to conform to the aspects of our original recommendations that we highlight in this letter. We believe that these changes are important to our shared goal of operating Jackson Forest in the public interest and without further conflict.

Sincerely,

Bruce Burton

Kathy Bailey

Art Harwood

Vince Taylor

Mike Jani

Mike Anderson