

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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April 28, 2008

Mr. Vince Taylor
43151 Little Lake Road
Mendocino, California 95460

RE: JACKSON DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST ADVISORY GROUP APPOINTEES

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Congratulations on behalf of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). I am pleased to inform you that I have selected you as one of my 13 appointees to the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group (JAG), and that the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) approved these appointments at its April 3, 2008, meeting. Your appointment will run through April 30, 2012.

I was greatly impressed by the talents, experience, sincerity, and dedication of the 28 people I interviewed for the JAG, making my selection of 13 appointees very challenging indeed. Congratulations, again, and welcome to the JAG. For your information, I have enclosed a list of appointees approved by the Board.

I also am pleased to announce that I have appointed John Helms to serve as Chairman of the JAG. Dr. Helms is a Professor Emeritus of silviculture from the University of California, Berkeley. He has had a long and distinguished career of research, teaching, and professional service in his field. For example, he recently completed a term as President of the Society of American Foresters.

The first meeting of the JAG has been set for May 9-10, 2008, in the Fort Bragg area. Russ Henly, CAL FIRE's Assistant Deputy Director for Resource Protection and Improvement, will be following up with additional details.

I want to review several important items regarding service on the JAG. I have attached a copy of the JAG Charter, which is the critical document for the direction of the JAG's work. It addresses such key issues as mission, duties, roles and responsibilities, decision making processes, and meeting ground rules. Please give the Charter your careful study.

It is also important to note that the activities of the JAG will be subject to the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Public Resources Code § 11120-11131.5). I have also included a copy of this law for your reference. CAL FIRE staff will provide the JAG with a briefing on the requirements of this law at the first JAG meeting.

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PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSERVE ENERGY. FOR TIPS AND INFORMATION, VISIT "FLEX YOUR POWER" AT WWW.CA.GOV.

Your travel expenses as a JAG member will be reimbursed by CAL FIRE, subject to standard State travel expense procedures and limitations. CAL FIRE staff will provide you with information on these prior to the first JAG meeting.

CAL FIRE is currently taking several key steps to resume active management on JDSF. We have completed a draft "Option (a)" document. This is a document we are required to prepare under the Forest Practice Rules to demonstrate how management of JDSF will achieve "maximum sustained production of high quality timber products." An Option (a) document must be submitted along with a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP). Upon submission to CAL FIRE's Forest Practice Program for review, a typically lengthy review of the Option (a) is conducted, resulting in a slow review process for the THP.

As soon as CAL FIRE completes a review of the Northfork Spur draft THP for consistency with the Management Plan, we will be submitting the Option (a) document attached to this THP. This harvesting plan is in an area identified as "sensitive" according to the Management Plan and other public comment. As such, we will bring the Northfork Spur THP forward for JAG review and comment. If I determine that changes to the Northfork Spur THP are necessary, based on the JAG's recommendations, CAL FIRE will file an amendment to the THP.

Following the filing of the Option (a) and Northfork Spur THP for review, CAL FIRE will be filing the 14 Gulch THP for review. While this THP also is in an area designated as sensitive in the Management Plan, CAL FIRE will not be bringing this THP to the Advisory Group for review. The Management Plan permits THPs in sensitive areas to skip Advisory Group review if necessary to allow resumption of the Forest's harvesting program in the 2008 operating season. I have determined that this faster track approach for the 14 Gulch THP is necessary to ensure that it can be operated on in this year's operating season.

I greatly appreciate the time and effort that you made to apply and interview for the JAG. Your concern for and dedication to Jackson Demonstration State Forest are commendable. My staff and I look forward to working with you as a member of the JAG.

Sincerely,



RUBEN GRIJALVA
Director

Attachments