

Integration Committee Composite

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Overarching Goals Adopted by JAG in November 2008

1. **RESEARCH & DEMONSTRATION:** Improve the amount and quality of information concerning economic forest and timber management, forest ecosystem processes, watershed processes, performance of forest protection measures, that is available to the general public, forest landowners, resource professionals, timber operators, the timber industry, and researchers.
2. **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:** Engage the public and community about the forest's research and demonstration activities through education and outreach, and recreation.
3. **WATERSHED AND ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES:** Promote and maintain the health, sustainability, ecological processes, and biological diversity of the forest and watersheds during the conduct of all land management activities.
4. **TIMBER MANAGEMENT:** Manage the forest on the sustained yield principle, defined as management which will achieve continuous yields of high quality timber products that contribute to local employment and tax revenue, consistent with environmental parameters related to watershed, wildlife, fisheries, and aesthetic and recreational enjoyment and constraints related to providing a diverse, dynamic matrix of forest habitats and seral stages for researchers.
5. **RECREATION and AESTHETIC ENJOYMENT:** Plan for and provide enhanced levels of low impact recreational opportunities that are compatible with forest management objectives and healthy ecological processes, that are consistent with historic recreational use characteristics, and that allow for engagement of recreation user groups.
6. **INFORMATION, PLANNING, & STAFFING:** Develop, maintain, and update management plans and other planning documents and processes. Manage and support the information needs and staffing needs of all State Forest programs. Communicate with the public, and actively seek input from the public, regarding management of the Forest.
7. **FOREST PRODUCTS:** Maintain a program that provides an opportunity for the public and small businesses to purchase forest products.
8. **PROPERTY CONFIGURATION:** Improve the boundary layout of the State Forest to facilitate management logistics and increase demonstration and research opportunities. *(We propose deferring this goal)*

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Demonstration

Not a lot has been discussed about the differentiation between Research and Demonstration. The Integration Committee generally felt that Demonstration Projects should be largely the jurisdiction of management given the following guidelines:

1. Demonstration projects that involve timber harvesting need to go through the THP process and through a management review process that currently involves a JAG review, and
2. Non-timber harvest activities should be Cal Fire operational management decisions, and
3. Demonstration Projects should:
 - Provide economic analysis that is available to all interested parties
 - Minimally document:
 - Goals and outcomes
 - Techniques to be applied
 - Data to be collected
 - Findings over time

The Integration Committee supports the Two Demonstration Allocations on JDSF Plan page 142. Part of the western area allocation is not designated as OFDA and would need to be redesignated as such per the recommendations of the Landscape Committee.

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Compilation of JAG Member Core Needs

Integration Committee Comments in Blue Italics

1. **JDSF should generate sufficient revenue to support JDSF programs and contribute to the local economy.** *So far, we have identified timber harvest as the primary source of cash. Contributions from co-operating agencies are usually in the form of in-kind services and not cash. I happen to believe, as an example, that the Caspar Creek study is important and that the cost of that program could not possibly be supported by timber harvest in the Caspar Creek watershed. So, for large programs such as this, there needs to be agreement to subsidize that research by harvest from across the entire Forest. Also, a one-shift sawmill uses about 20 MMBF of logs per year. A harvest of lesser volume will not support the local economy very much. (Reflected in the Economic Committee's recommendations as adopted by JAG and the Research Committee recommendations indicate a goal to establish an independent body that would funnel research dollars into Jackson.)*
 2. **JDSF research needs to be applied more broadly than it has been to date.** *This is not a criticism of the research to date, but research should include all results (biologic, economic, administrative and practicality). For example, just after the Spotted Owl was declared a "threatened species", DFG and FWS required radio monitoring of a percentage of owls discovered. I know for a fact that all of the captured owls with radio sets on the property I managed died during the first winter due to predation, but that data is not in the research. We actually reduced the population by about 25% in less than a year by trying to comply with agency edicts. There are few cost:benefit analyses for applied research. And, the current controversy before the Board of Forestry over the interpretation of the new stream rules shows me that there is a need to try regulatory proposals from an administrative and practicality aspect before making new regulations. (Yes: The focus is that the entire forest is for Research and Demonstration and that the Centers of Excellence approach and the thoughtful planning that will come from the development of the Centers of Excellence, will address a broad and comprehensive approach to Research).*
 3. **Open the Forest to a range of recreational activities not generally available.** *I believe that JDSF has a number of these. But a firewood cutting program will be very much appreciated locally. A rifle range location is needed. Off-road vehicles need to be accommodated, and this should assist JDSF in less damage to roads in areas where ORVs should not be traveling. (This is in progress through the existing Recreation Task Force and the meetings that have been held throughout the community about recreation).*
1. Any increase in Late Seral, Reserves or Old Forest Structure Zones over and above those outlined in the Management Plan and the Settlement Agreement must be supported by peer reviewed scientific justification. Personal perceptions, preferences and desires are not adequate justification for making a change in the current management plan. Any changes to

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definitions from the original Management Plan impacting the above must be agreed upon by the entire JAG. *(The Landscape Committee has provided brief justifications for its recommended additions to LSDAs, Reserves, and OFSZs. These justifications do not point to any peer-reviewed science. Yes, all of these recommendations and definitions must be agreed upon by JAG. The Integration Committee has worked on the definitions provided by both committees and has agreed upon a useful set of definitions proposed to be adopted by JAG. We also believe that the current allocation in terms of Late Seral, Reserves, Older Forest Structure Zones and Older Forest Development Areas are consistent with all of the goals agreed upon by JAG in November of 2008 (See Agreed Upon Goals in the Integration Document). As a further step we have identified the actual additional acreage (from the Management Plan) represented by these allocations and this is addressed in the Integration Recommendations).*

2. If Natural Forestry or any other new silvicultural prescription is furthered by this process, the definition needs to be agreed upon by the entire JAG, no one single prescription is appropriate as a default and prescriptions need to be based on forest science, forest health and professional judgment. All silvicultural prescriptions need to be available to the forest managers. *(We believe that the Landscape Allocation Committee's latest recommendation and our proposals certainly take care of the concern around a single prescription and the notion of a default prescription. We believe that these are fully addressed by the Silviculture Guidelines).*

3. Forestry decisions must be made on the ground by licensed professionals without interference from JAG. Once the report is complete and submitted the JAG and all it's members needs to quickly move to the background. Short of a strong commitment from JAG to fade into the background the likelihood of establishing a good management team for JDSF will be impossible. *(The Integration Recommendations establish the overall goals, principles and guidelines for the licensed professional to then write the appropriate prescriptions).*

4. Public education and outreach have always been on the backburner and need to be an emphasis as JDSF moves forward. *(Yes – we fully agree and it is our recommendation that the Education and Outreach Committee now moves into action and addresses the important core need and one of the overarching goals developed by JAG in November 2008).*

1. An expanded experimental program with emphasis on redwood and associated biology that includes production of redwood products as well as forest health and sustainability. This would include improving facilities such as roads, monitoring and recording all aspects of forest activities and cooperating in research partnerships with other entities such as Universities, agencies etc. *[We believe that the Centers of Excellence concept and other principles adopted by JAG (such as the February 26 adoption of "Inventory/monitoring/reporting as key underpinnings of research and adaptive management") meet this concern.]*

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2. The melding of a recreation program (trails etc.) with factual public educational features which explain the biology of the redwood forest, management activities, experimental projects, and all the associated benefits. *(We believe that these core needs are fully addressed in the Integration Recommendations, especially in the Research Recommendations that address such a multi-faceted Research and Demonstration approach).*

3. Harvest levels that are consistent with maintaining a healthy, productive forest, meet the required funding levels and provide for a consistent level of recreational enjoyment in a variety of biological settings. *(This is one of the overarching principles and is addressed by 2 of the overarching goals as adopted by JAG in November 2008. The Research Recommendations incorporate the need for much more extensive monitoring and evaluation that will provide the foundation to meet the economic goals as described above).*

Per the request from Steve, here are items which I feel should be addressed in the final report:

It must clearly state how our recommendations differ from the management plan and how they will fulfill the overall goal / mission of JDSF.

- It should describe what types of even-aged silviculture are to be applied on JDSF and to what extent.
- It must address the first four points under item A in the Charter.

As far as red flags:

- Any implication that the desired future condition should be predominately late seral or old-growth characteristics. *(We are below 50% for Late Seral and Old Growth allocation).*

(The individual who identified these core needs feels that they are fully addressed by the Integration Recommendations. Many of the changes or suggestions made in the Integration Recommendations cite specific areas of support or modification relative to the Management Plan (which is our Charter).

1. That any proposed even aged management proposed be directly tied to a research or demonstration project that at a minimum articulates what question is being posed and over what time frame the project will be assessed for conclusions. *(Yes – this is consistent with the prior recommendations of the Landscape Committee and our recommendations).*

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2. That any timber harvest that is proposed that specifically does not have some purpose for demonstration or research (ie: need for revenue generation) utilizes the default “natural forest management” harvesting theme. (or whatever we decide to call it). *(We believe that this is fully addressed through Integration Committee recommendations for “Silvicultural Guidelines for Harvests not Associated with Approved Research and Demonstration Projects” that have been slightly amended from the Landscape Allocation Committee).*
3. That following the conclusion of the “allocation mapping” exercise, JAG members agree to no further special interest tweaks- enough is enough!! *(We believe that the package being presented by the Landscape Allocation Committee appears to be largely consistent with of our goals and merits JAG's careful consideration. The additional areas discussed but not yet recommended by the Landscape Committee also need to be considered by the full JAG).*

1. JDSF should maintain diverse forest stand ages and structures from young to old to enable research and demonstration aimed at understanding redwood ecosystem processes and functions and support centers of excellence. *(We believe that this is fully addressed by the current recommendations).*

2. Outside of harvesting associated with research and demonstration, and when needed to maintain an appropriate level of sustainable timber output, JDSF should utilize options among conservative, diverse, ecologically-based silvicultural approaches based on guidelines aimed at enhancing forest health, maintaining future options, and addressing aesthetic needs. *(We believe that this is fully addressed by the current recommendations).*

3. Administration of research and demonstration programs on JDSF should incorporate a collaborative mechanism consisting of CAL FIRE and a research cooperative of diverse research interests. *(We believe that this is fully addressed by the current recommendations).*

I preface these statements by declaring that I'm not sure I understand the intent of the exercise, but I will give it a shot. It feels somewhat abstract without a specific set of recommendations to respond to...

In general my core issue is to:

- ensure that the recommendations function together to establish a functional and effective framework that moves the forest toward a World-Class, research-oriented, forest management regime that can act as an integrative resource for informing applied forest management policies & practices throughout California. *(We have largely adopted the recommendations submitted by the Research Committee and we are confident that these recommendations will ensure a fully functional, integrated*

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and effective framework moving towards our overarching goal of a World Class Research Forest).

Implicit in this core need is that:

- the recommendations avoid unintended consequences (*We are not sure that this is possible – the one thing that you can be sure of when you make changes is that there will be unintended consequences – both positive and negative*).
- sufficient revenues are generated to support implementation of a strong research component. (*We believe these are fully addressed by the adopted Economic Principle and the current recommendations*).
- the approach is technically sound and realistically implementable. (*We believe that the development of the Centers of Excellence model by a group of diverse research experts through a consulting contract and then administered by a Research Committee and supported by a Research Consortium will fully address this core need*).

For me to consider the Jackson Advisory Group process to have been successful, I will need to have a significant confidence level that the following will be achieved within a reasonable time period:

1. *Within the constraints imposed by existing conditions and natural occurrences, the forest will maintain over time, resilient old growth core areas for every native tree species or will develop core areas where none now exist; will restore areas around these cores where the structures and functions associated with never managed forests are allowed or encouraged to develop and be maintained in perpetuity; and these restored areas are linked throughout the forest by a network of stands of sufficient structure and function to allow the full range of life forms previously associated with this landscape to recover, survive in perpetuity, and evolve as natural conditions change over time. (We believe that the Landscape Allocation Committee recommendations with amendments by the Integration Committee fully support and address this core need. Several years ago, testimony was given to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors that there are several Sasquatch living on JDSF; this tends to confirm that the full range of life forms is present on the Forest).*

2. A credible research and demonstration program is established that is directed by an academically recognized research expert, in consultation with an advisory board, and supported by a stable funding source not wholly tied to cutting timber. (*We believe that this is fully addressed by the Research Committee recommendations modified by the Integration Committee through the tiered model of research “committee” structures. One of these recommendations specifically addresses the need to develop a semi-independent research body that would funnel research dollars directly into the forest in a way that would not be subject to state involvement or the need to come from timber revenue*).

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3. Mechanisms are established to facilitate efficient and productive ongoing communication among the local and departmental staff, the general public, public agencies, the academic community, and forestland managers of all description. *(Yes – we fully agree and it is our recommendation that the Education and Outreach Committee now moves into action and addresses the important core need and one of the overarching goals developed by JAG in November 2008).*

- ***Plan area, on a coarse scale, continuously provides forests that are habitat for the broad array of species expected in the vicinity – with focus on (but not exclusion to) the older end of the forest spectrum. (The proposed approach would provide a diverse range of habitat across the forest at various scales).***
 - *The “coarse scale” clause is used in recognition that local conditions and species issues can and will override gross planning products.*
 - *This recommendation provides a coarse filter for conservation of species present.*
 - *Too little or too much of any seral condition is a red flag.*
 - ***The Forest is a laboratory that provides both the facility and funding for both extensive and intensive research interests and need. (We believe this is addressed by the Research Committee recommendations as modified by the Integration Committee)***
 - *Excessive hurdles or barriers to building the laboratory is a red flag. (We propose sending this back to the Research Committee for further recommendations)*
- 1) Restoration of old forest ecology be one of the primary goals of Jackson Forest management and one of the Centers of Excellence of the research program. *(We agree and it is an overarching goal as adopted by JAG in November 2008)*
- 2) Timber harvests in Jackson Forest either
- a. contribute to improving old forest ecological values, aesthetic values, and recreational opportunities in the forest, or
 - b. be a part of a professionally designed, evaluated, and administered research and demonstration program that aims to achieve specific goals approved by the JAG.
- (We believe that the modified Silvicultural Guidelines address these core needs)*

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Economics Recommendations Approved by JAG

Feb. 23-24, 2009 Minutes

That budgets be realigned to show the various cost centers or programs for the Forest as a basis for budgeting:

Timbersales, recreation, security, monitoring, research, allocation of salaries to various functions.

April 3-4, 2009 Minutes

Accept tables in exhibit A

- 1) MMBF required to raise \$6m at bid prices from \$50-800/MBF
- 2) MMBF required to raise \$2.3 m (current year's budget) at bid prices from \$100-1,000/MBF

June 26-27, 2009 Minutes

- 1) The sale program will reflect the standards for silviculture consistent with the landscape allocation
- 2) Section 4799.13 may need to be amended to allow for a "Prudent Reserve" (JAG not qualified to interpret the law)
- 3) A one-year operating reserve be created, gradually as market conditions allow. The reserve funds should be a dedicated fund that would apply to the entire state forest program, and based on current and near-term program costs
- 4) the state should explore how reserve funds could be invested in a money-market-type fund and that interest earned be applied to state forest programs
- 5) *Consider:* Suggestions for generating cash flow (No JAG action) --
 - o Inventory of THPs of sufficient THPs to respond to market demands
 - o Variable harvest levels (higher in good markets and lower in poor markets)
 - o Consider limiting high-cost deferred maintenance projects, especially those remote from timber sale areas and/or seeking grants for deferred maintenance projects
 - o Use volunteers to conduct projects at low or no cost to the state
 - o Reduce travel expenses, require multiple occupants in state vehicles
 - o Require all persons at a work site to actually work and minimize supervision costs

August 10, 2009

- 1.1. A year-by-year projection of individual research project costs provide the base for annual budget allocations as a line item. The projection will be updated periodically.
- 1.2. JDSF-RFP projects use the above recommendation for annual and future budgets and that other projects be required to provide a long-term projection of costs with assurance from the initiator of budget support.
- 1.3. CAL FIRE should obtain professional grant-writing capability as a way to gather grant funds.
- 2.1 JDSF should determine the feasibility of changing its timber sale process from the sale of stumpage to the sale of delivered logs. This will create several changes, including

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- a) JDSF will hire one or more loggers for timber sales
 - b) JDSF will need to have log purchase orders from several mills, which they prefer to do with staff rather than by contract with a private log sale contractor
 - c) JDSF change current internal policies that require sale to the highest bidder, if qualified to carry out a contract.
- 2.2 To improve the ability to differentiate capital costs from operating expenses related to timber sales, JDSF should consider the development of more traditional business cost accounting practices that proportionally allocate capital costs into relevant timber sales as appropriate. *(No recorded JAG action on this amended recommendation; presume JAG agrees in principle since JAG asked for further review of original recommendation).*
- 2.23 In order to reduce transportation costs and raise net values for sales, JDSF should continue to support local utilization of material produced in nearby forest and sawmill operations. This would have a supporting role for local communities.
4. The structure of JDSF reporting be reviewed, allocation of equipment and personnel be revised as appropriate, and that JDSF staff report directly to the Resource Management Staff. *(Deferred until further JAG discussion on JDSF Management).*