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**RECREATIONAL USE ON JDSF, OR, WHAT? ISN'T THIS A PARK?**

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The primary management objective of Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) as determined by the California Legislature and the Board of Forestry is the demonstration of economical timber management. Recreation is recognized as a secondary, but usually compatible use on the Forest. Thus, our task is to make camping and day use facilities available to the general public and to integrate recreational use with timber management to demonstrate how these uses can be compatible.

This article presents a brief overview of our current recreation program. First some background information is provided; then the current use situation is described. This is followed by a discussion of some of the issues we are now facing and what we are doing to address them.

Background on JDSF Recreation Program

The public has traditionally recreated on the State Forest, even before it became public land. The most popular areas for camping have always been the alluvial flats near watercourses, many of which were the sites of old logging camps. In 1976, monies were allocated to develop recreational facilities, and most of these traditional camping sites were designated as official campgrounds. Tables, stoves, garbage cans and pit toilets were installed for public use. A total

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of 18 of these rustic campgrounds and three picnic areas were built. None have a developed water supply. Camping was, and still is, free of charge with a permit and is limited to two weeks per stay and 30 days per year.

The construction of these facilities was the inception of the current recreation program on JDSF. Additional funds were budgeted for a seasonal patrolperson to patrol the recreational sites to see that campers have permits and are adhering to State Forest rules. A recreation aide position was also established for the summer months to maintain the facilities and conduct interpretive programs. Over the years short foot trails were constructed or reestablished, and there are currently nearly twenty miles of trail on the Forest. In the early 1980's, the focus of the recreation aide position became law enforcement as a result of user pressures, and the interpretive programs were discontinued. The patrol job was made a full time permanent position in 1986.

#### Current Status

Recreating on the Forest has become very popular in recent years. Peak use is during the summer when there are many campers and hunters; however, the spring and fall are also popular. During the winter, mushroom pickers and firewood cutters are the most frequent recreationists, if you can consider these activities recreation. Other Forest recreation activities include horseback, motorcycle and mountain bike riding, fishing, hiking and bird watching.

Recreational use increased significantly in 1986. This was especially apparent in the number of large groups coming to the Forest. These groups included Boy Scouts, Royal Rangers, motorcycle clubs, and equestrian organizations, and on several occasions numbered 200 to 300 people in size. We also realized that a number of people who call their bus or other vehicle their home have found the Forest a convenient place to live. I say "live" because until we limited camping to 30 days per year, these people would come back for several two-week stays throughout the summer.

This increase in recreational use has resulted in several problems such as overcrowded campgrounds, arguments amongst user groups, conflicts with logging activities, and increased theft, vandalism and garbage. Furthermore, the results of our timber harvesting practices are receiving greater scrutiny, especially when logging occurs near or on the way to campgrounds. The common perception that JDSF is a park, not an active demonstration forest, further complicates the situation. Of course, this can be seen as an opportunity to promote public understanding of our management objectives and timber harvesting practices. These circumstances raise several issues, some of which are described in the following section.

#### Recreation Management Issues

At times last year, recreational use met or exceeded the recreational carrying capacity of the Forest. When this occurred, the

quality of the recreational experience suffered, our ability to provide safe, sanitary facilities was strained, and the forest resource was damaged. Hence, we feel that we are at a point where several decisions regarding recreation management need to be made. And because forest recreation directly affects our timber management program, we need to reevaluate our timber harvesting practices as well. What type and level of recreational opportunity shall we provide? Do we develop additional facilities to meet rising use or do we limit use to a fixed number of people with the idea of providing a better experience for those that are able to come? How much do we modify our timber management plans to accommodate recreational use?

#### Where We Are Going From Here

At this time we are analyzing alternatives. With tight budgets everywhere, increasing our staff and/or budget are not plausible options. The need for public involvement to secure adequate review and operational support has become apparent. Accordingly, beginning this year we have contracted a study of recreational use conflicts which will canvass user expectations and make recommendations to resolve conflicts between recreational uses and timber management. This will be a major effort and will take place over the next three years. There will be more on this study in future Newsletters.

Also, we plan to look at the layout of our campgrounds to see where we can make changes to increase privacy, reduce user impact, and better delineate camping sites. We plan to develop a group camp which would be used only by large groups on a reservation basis. Additionally, we will be promoting two new demonstration trails: the Forest History Trail and the Railroad Gulch Silvicultural Demonstration Trail. These trails, which are designed to give the public an understanding of past and present forest practices, are described in the following article. With these efforts we feel we will be making progress on these issues and you can be sure that we will keep you informed of future developments.

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#### **NEW DEMONSTRATION TRAILS**

Two educational trails have recently been constructed on JDSF in cooperation with professors at UC-Berkeley's Department of Forestry and Resource Management. The first of these discussed below is a 4-mile loop trail designed for the general public. The second is about one-half mile in length, and is designed for more technically-oriented users. Both trails were constructed and are maintained by inmate crews from the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp.

#### Forest History Trail

In 1981 Dr. Joe McBride (now chairman of UC-Berkeley's Forestry Dept.) received CDF funding to develop a "Technology Transfer" project at JDSF. His goal was to educate the general public about the

ecology, history, and management of the redwood forest. The result is a 4-mile, 4-hour loop trail and accompanying guide that uses basic scientific and conservation concepts to explain the history and use of the coast redwood forest ecosystem. The trail has five sections, each dealing with a different aspect of the redwood forest. A total of 47 numbered posts are keyed to the guide's text, giving a thorough overview of this complex ecosystem.

The trail begins in the Mendocino Woodlands Recreation Area with a section on **Redwood Forest Ecology**. This section's 15 stations introduce the hiker to the redwood forest community. Botanical markers identify the common species found in this ecosystem, and the printed guide describes many of them. The stations in this section also examine the interaction of ecosystem components by describing the roles of natural succession, nutrient cycling, fires, floods, and wildlife. Taken alone, this section of the Forest History Trail can serve as an excellent primer in forest community ecology.

In keeping with the natural history approach to this trail, the second section focuses on **Native American** uses of this forest type. The 8 stations in this section illustrate the use of redwood by the native Coast Pomo people for building materials, and the use of other species for tools, food, dyes, and medicines.

The trail's third section recalls the **Early Logging** period that occurred following the California gold rush and into the early 1900s. This period was unique due to the enormous size of the old growth trees, the harvest of which tested the strength, stamina, and inventiveness of the pioneer loggers. The 8 stations in this section describe early timber cruising techniques, felling, bucking, and yarding methods, and various products derived from the virgin redwood forest.

Section four demonstrates **Modern Forest Management**, beginning with an overview of a 1924 redwood plantation, one of the earliest attempts at artificial reforestation in the western U.S. The other 7 stations in this section demonstrate redwood sprout management, the effects of fire, post-harvest recovery of the redwood ecosystem, and tree growth as a function of forest stocking. Near the end of this section there is a 500-foot side trail off the main trail that leads to Observation Point, the site of a former fire lookout. On clear days, the hiker is treated to a fine view of the surrounding forest landscape as well as the Pacific Ocean, five miles to the west. At an elevation of 1000 feet, Observation Point is the highest point along the trail, and the remainder of the hike is downhill.

The fifth and final section of the trail features JDSF's role as a timber management demonstration forest. The 9 stations in the **Demonstration Forestry** section describe ongoing experiments and demonstrations, starting with an overview of the Caspar Creek Watershed Study. Subsequent stations illustrate research being conducted on forest diseases, hardwood management, redwood sprout thinning, genetics, and silviculture.

After station 47, the trail continues a short distance downhill

to the beginning of the **Native American** section, completing the loop around Observation Point Mountain. From here, the hiker returns to the start of the trail by retracing his/her route through the **Redwood Ecology** section.

### Railroad Gulch Silvicultural Demonstration Trail

This trail grew out of a study proposed in 1981 by Dr. John Helms, Associate Professor of forestry at UC-Berkeley. Entitled "The Effect of Silvicultural System and Stocking Level on Productivity, Costs, and Site Disturbance," this project was implemented in 1982-83 as the Railroad Gulch Silvicultural Demonstration. The three specific objectives of Helms' study are to 1), quantify the relationship between stocking level and stand growth, 2), evaluate financial costs and benefits of alternative silvicultural strategies, and 3), quantify the effects of these alternative prescriptions on understory growth and soil surface displacement. For a full description of this study, see JDSF Newsletter No. 11 and California Forestry Note No. 97.

This trail is best suited for use by students and landowners with some technical background. The trail's 11 stations are particularly effective in comparing single tree and group selection methods of uneven-age management. It also gives the hiker an opportunity to observe a permanent, preplanned skid trail system.

The Railroad Gulch trail illustrates a variety of harvest intensities and methods, and allows the user to visualize the effect of various initial harvests on current and future yields. It provides opportunities to observe effects of silvicultural prescription on stand structure, control and response of regeneration (as well as weeds and shrubs), and the impact of deer browsing.

Information and directions to these trails can be obtained at our office in Fort Bragg.

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### BOOK REVIEW

In keeping with the recreation/demonstration topic for this newsletter, we felt it would be appropriate to review Bob Lorentzen's new book, "The Hiker's Hip Pocket Guide to the Mendocino Coast." Published by Bored Feet Publications of Mendocino in 1986, this book describes 40 trails along the coast varying from less than a mile to 44 miles in length. It is priced at \$9.95 and available at local bookstores. Bob has organized his guide so that the various trails are listed from the northern part of the coast down to the south. Most of the trails described are day hikes, and lead to many types of habitats, including historical sites. Each trail includes a map, specific directions to find the site, warnings, the best season to go, and a good natural history discussion.

Of particular interest are Bob's descriptions of 5 trails on Jackson Demonstration State Forest. Trail #15 - North Fork of South Fork Noyo River - is a 4-mile hike which follows an old spur line of the Caspar Lumber Co. Railroad. As the trail goes through 70-year-old second growth, remains of the old line are still evident. The Chamberlain Creek Waterfall trail (#16) is a short quarter mile walk down to a beautiful old growth grove off of Road 200. Recently, a new route has been built down from Chamberlain Campground to the falls as well. Bob also briefly describes the Chamberlain Creek Demonstration Forest trail located just west of the entrance to Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp. The 27 stations along this 2-mile trail illustrate much about forest ecology in an old growth redwood stand. Trail markers denote how these trees become established, grow, and finally become decadent. The stand has been marked for timber cutting. This shows how foresters remove mature and overmature trees in areas such as these - if this stand was to be cut. Interpretive brochures are available at the trail head in the summer and at our headquarters in the winter.

In addition, the Mendocino Hiking and Equestrian Trail is included in the guide. Portions of this trail are located on JDSF - primarily along the North Fork of the South Fork of the Noyo River (#17-2) and from Little Lake Road in Mendocino to State Highway 20 (#24). Finally, the Forest History Trail (#25), described in detail above, is discussed.

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#### ARCHEOLOGY TRAINING BENEFITS JDSF AND THE STATE

On March 18 and 19th eight JDSF foresters attended an archeology course for Registered Professional Foresters (RPF's) offered by CDF in Ukiah. Over 100 foresters participated in this training session led by CDF archeologists Daniel Foster and Richard Jenkins. The primary objective was to educate RPF's preparing Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) on how to determine if archeological sites exist in a given area, and how to protect them if they are found. Archeologists are attempting to locate all significant cultural sites, gain information about them, enter them into computer records, and protect them from damage. Presently there are over 2200 recorded sites in Mendocino County.

The current procedure for anyone in the Northern California Coastal Region to determine if a recorded site is in a proposed THP area is to either contact Sonoma State University for a record search, or get in touch with the CDF Archeology office in Sacramento for assistance. Prior to timber harvesting on JDSF, we routinely have an inspection made by a CDF archeologist. When sites are found, buffer zones are established around them, and roads and landings are relocated to protect the site. Road and skid trail construction in the past have been the most destructive part of logging to these valuable sites.

Knowledge gained from this course will prove useful on JDSF, since a complete cultural resource inventory has never been done here.

An overview study was, however, completed on the Forest by the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1978. Approximately 1430 acres in several distinct areas were surveyed for prehistoric sites. Their work resulted in the discovery of 14 new sites which are now permanently recorded. Locations with a high potential for cultural sites were found to be: major trending ridges, junctions of major and adjoining ridges, and areas near major drainages on gentle slopes. These sites vary from flake scatters to artifact assemblages with middens (culturally stained soil deposits). The one house pit site on JDSF was known prior to this study, and was up to 1978 the only recorded site on the State Forest. This site has previously been described in JDSF Newsletter No. 23 by Cole.

The area delineated by JDSF falls within the Northern Pomo Indian Territory. These people were divided into several distinct tribelets; two of these claimed lands on the Forest. The Mato Pomo were the more northerly group, occupying the Noyo River Drainage and Sherwood Valley. The Mitom Pomo wintered in Little Lake Valley and claimed most of Big River Drainage. The majority of the permanent villages were in inland valleys, while seasonal camps were located along the coast near rivers and were used in the spring, summer, and early fall. The coastal redwood forest has been found to be the least favored habitat.

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#### STAFF NOTES

With great sadness, we regrettably report that **Greg Morine** passed away on February 27th. He worked in various capacities on the State Forest since 1978, most recently filling the part time patrolman position. Before coming to JDSF, he was a California Highway Patrolman for 15 years. In addition, he was a commercial salmon fisherman on the coast for 20 years. He will be remembered by our staff for his hard work and great sense of humor.

Also, we must note the departure of two staff members. **Dana Cole** has promoted to Forester II at St. Helena in the Lake-Napa Ranger Unit. Dana was a Timber Sale Officer, and later Demonstration and Experimental Forester I on JDSF for seven years. He was newsletter editor during this period and is largely responsible for its current quality. His work on JDSF included studies on pre-constructed skid trails and redwood sprout growth; he also worked on the silviculture demonstration trails described above. His professional writing and research abilities will be missed. We thank Dana and wish him the best of luck in his new job. He will be the Vegetation Management Program Coordinator and the area forester for five counties.

**Eric Schramm** has left CDF to pursue employment in other fields. Eric held the position of Forestry Technician and was our primary patrolman on JDSF since 1982. We wish Eric well in his future endeavors and thank him for the good job he has done for us.

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