

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION (CDF)

State Forests Research & Demonstration Program
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- Please send the following publication(s):
- ___ The Research and Demonstration Newsletter, published 2 - 4 times a year
 - ___ List of CA Forestry Notes. No. 1 – 119
 - ___ List of Tree Notes #1 — 30, from CDF Forest Pests Program
 - ___ CA Forestry Report #4, Site Index Systems for Major Young-Growth Forest and Woodland Species in Northern California
 - ___ CA Forestry Note #119, Growth of Redwood and Douglas-fir Leave Trees Using Variable Retention

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California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF)

State Forests Research & Demonstration

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Special points of interest in this article:

- Background information on the Draft EIR
- Key features in the document
- 60-day public review period

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New Draft Environmental Impact Report Release for Jackson Demonstration State Forest

On December 16, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection filed the “Draft Environmental Impact Report [DEIR] for the Draft Jackson Demonstration State Forest Management Plan.” This new DEIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts of a new management plan for Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) that was proposed by the department. The new DEIR is intended to replace a 2002 EIR that was found inadequate by the Mendocino County Superior Court as a result of litigation brought by the Dharma Cloud Charitable Foundation, Citizens to Restore Jackson State Redwood Forest, and the Forests Forever Foundation. As a result of the litigation, all timber harvesting demonstration on JDSF has been halted since 2003, thereby curtailing the Forest’s research and demonstration mission, causing severe financial and staffing difficulties for CDF programs such as Demonstration Forests, Nurseries, Urban Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Pest Management, and resulting in substantial economic impacts to Mendocino County.

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New Demonstration State Forests Advisory Group Established and Active

Former CDF Director Dale Geldert established a new Demonstration State Forests Advisory Group in early 2005. The purpose of the advisory group is to provide advice to the director on issues related to Demonstration State Forests’ operation and management, research direction, demonstration projects, review of technical proposals, reports, management plans and environmental documentation. The advisory group is composed of 11 members (see sidebar on page 3), who are appointed by the director, plus a liaison to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The composition of the advisory group is designed to include expertise across the broad environmental, economic, and social components of forest sustainability.

The advisory group meets two to three times per year, with meetings open to the public. The group has met three times this year and has visited LaTour and Soquel Demonstration State Forests. Key topics the group has been addressing are certification of the Demonstration State Forests under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) programs and the direction of the Demonstration Forests’ research and demonstration programs. At its July meeting, the group recommended to the director that CDF pursue FSC and SFI certification for the Demonstration State Forests and to use the certification process as a demonstration activity for other forest landowners. CDF has accepted this recommendation and is beginning to

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California

Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency

Ruben Grijalva
Acting Director
California Department
of Forestry and Fire
Protection

Draft EIR

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Some of the key features of the proposed management plan are:

- Elevates wildlife, watersheds, and ecosystem processes to a level of importance equivalent to the timber management demonstration and research programs.
- Protects all old-growth forest, all residual old-growth groves, and most residual individual old growth trees.
- Devotes 20% of the forest, including Class I and II stream zones, to development of older forest habitat conditions (i.e., late-seral).
- Establishes a road management plan, including modern road construction and maintenance specifications, road inventory, scheduling of improvements, and restoration (decommissioning).
- Proposes to conduct a recreational user-needs study and to base improvements upon the results of the survey.
- Builds timber inventory over the coming decades, cutting only about 70% of growth for the first decade.
- Proposes to manage 64% of the forest area under unevenaged structural condition and 29% under an even-aged structural condition.
- Minimizes clearcutting.

There will be a 60-day public comment period for the new DEIR and proposed management plan, closing on March 1, 2006. The board will hold two public hearings on the DEIR and proposed management plan: February 2 in Ukiah and February 9 in Sacramento. Members of the public are encouraged to comment on the proposed plan and the DEIR at the hearings or through written comments to the board. Copies of the DEIR are available from a number of sources:

- Download from the board's website at <http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/>
- On CDs available on request to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (916-653-8007)
- At public libraries and copy shops in Ft. Bragg, Mendocino, Willits, and Santa Rosa (contact board for specifics)
- At the JDSF office in Ft. Bragg, the CDF Mendocino Unit Headquarters near Willits, and the CDF North Coast Region Headquarters in Santa Rosa.

The DEIR analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the proposed JDSF management plan and six other alternative management approaches. After considering public comments and the potential impacts identified in the DEIR, the Board will choose among the alternatives, either as a whole or component-by-component, to provide the department with the management direction for the new JDSF management plan. The department will then prepare the final management plan and the board will prepare the final EIR.

CDF is looking forward to having a new management plan and EIR completed so that timber management demonstrations and other important management and restoration activities can resume on JDSF.

Advisory Committee

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move forward in its implementation.

If you would like to receive notification of future meetings of the Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group, please contact Kathi Robertson, State Forests Publications Coordinator, by e-mail at kathi.robertson@fire.ca.gov or phone at 916-651-9177.

State Forests Information Systems Making Progress

One of the fundamental services that the Demonstration State Forests provide are information systems for outreach of project results and for informing future research efforts. The State Forests Information System (FIS) project was initiated in October 2004 to begin the process of digital collection, organization and dissemination of state forests ma-



Historic railroad trestle segment on Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

terials. FIS consists of inventory databases, publications, data sets, photographs, computer software, and other ancillary materials. The USDA Forest Service, Forest Stewardship Program awarded a grant to the department of \$64,200 last year to implement the FIS.

The inventory databases consist of both permanent and temporary plots that have been measured periodically since the 1950s and 1960s.

This includes plots that were established for purposes of management and research. The publications include the *California Forestry Note* series that began in 1960 and the *California Forestry Report* series started in 2003. Also included are newsletters, consultant reports, theses and dissertations, and journal reprints. Each research project has a potentially useful data set associated with it that may be digital or only exist on paper forms. Each of these will be cataloged with a subset of the most promising being keypunched. Thousands of slides recording tours, experiments, photo-points, permanent plot locations, etc. will be cataloged and evaluated for scanning. Various software will be made available on our web site including utility programs and tools associated with specific projects such as the recent site index paper in California Forestry Report #4 (Krumland and Eng 2005).

Over 2,000 files have been scanned...

At the end of 2005 we have two part time students working on scanning and cataloging. We have finished with the files from Boggs Mountain State Forest and Sacramento. Over 2,000 files have been scanned with about 1/4 of these being publications residing in our searchable database. JDSF is next in line for having its files scanned and cataloged. This is where the greatest workload exists.

In 2006 we plan to continue data capture by scanning documents and assembling key data sets. In addition to a publications database we will develop a searchable "projects" database that will include links to publications, datasets, maps and photos. The projects database will also include the current status and planned activities for a project. We look forward to having a fully operational State Forests Information System to share with landowners, foresters, the public, students and researchers.

The State Forests Information System project was initiated in October 2004 to begin the process of digital collection, organization and dissemination of State Forests materials.



Methuselah's beard lichen (*Usnea longissima*) from Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Camps and Forests

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Inmates can earn from \$1.45 to \$1.65 per day plus \$1 per hour during travel, usually while on fire assignments where 24 hour shifts are common. This money may be used to buy goods at the camp commissary or to pay court-ordered restitution. The wards work five days per week and have off Saturday, Sunday, and holidays when not on an emergency assignment. Their work hours are usually between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The Camp Program is a significant fiscal benefit to the Demonstration State Forests and to California's citizens. The use of low-cost inmate labor under DOC and CDF joint management provides for many public works projects that otherwise would not be affordable.

Mountain Home Camp and Forest

By José Medina, division chief, Mountain Home Forest and Camp

Mountain Home Conservation Camp is invaluable to the nearby Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest. The camp provides a crew just about every day of the year except during the winter months when we are snowed out. The crews assist with a multitude of projects that vary from year to year. However, they always assist in opening the roads and trails every spring, assist with spring and fall burning (piles or broadcast burning), and construction and maintenance projects in the campgrounds. For example, they helped build our handicap accessible campsite, helped to construct and re-install about 50 concrete picnic tables, and reconstructed the public corrals and pack station feeders. The crews also regularly work on fuel-break construction and maintenance, facilities maintenance, pre-commercial thinning (small tree removal), digging ditches for waterlines and electrical lines, and range fence construction and maintenance. The camp crews basically help the forest with any project where a large labor force is needed. The forest and the camp have a productive working relationship that has benefited the state for many years.



Crew carrying vehicles.

The forest is not charged for all this labor. In return, the forest supplies the camp with logs for their wood products program. The forest tracks the volume provided for the annual report. The forest also provides staff assistance for

Contacts

For information regarding a particular forest contact the appropriate Forest Manager at the following locations:

Boggs Mountain

Wayne Connor
707-928-4378

LaTour

Bruce Beck
530-225-2505

Soquel

Thom Sutfin
831-475-8643

Jackson

Marc Jameson
707-964-5674

Mountain Home

José Medina
559-539-2855

Sacramento

Helge Eng
916-653-5000

Advisory Group Members and Area of Expertise

Chairman:

Gary Nakamura
UC Cooperative Extension
Redding

Small Landowner:

Steve Staub
Staub Forestry and Environmental Consulting
Santa Cruz

Large Landowner:

Mike Jani
Mendocino Redwoods Company
Calpella

Environmental Group, Vice-Chair:

Kathy Bailey
Sierra Club California
Philo

Socio-Economic:

Marcia McNally
Associate Adjunct Professor
Landscape Architecture
University of California
Berkeley

Forest Ecology:

Joe McBride, PhD
Professor
College of Natural Resources
University of California
Berkeley

Wildlife Biology/Botany:

Don Yasuda
El Dorado National Forest
USDA Forest Service
Placerville

Hydrology:

Matt O'Connor, PhD
O'Conner Environmental, Inc.
Healdsburg

Fisheries:

Jonathon Ambrose
NOAA Fisheries
Santa Rosa

Local Government:

Hal Wagenet
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Ukiah

Dave Finigan

Natural Resources Committee Chairman
Regional Council of Rural Counties
Sacramento

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Liaison:

George Gentry
Executive Officer
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Sacramento

Recent Activities on the Forests

This article summarizes some selected activities that have occurred this fall on the state forests.

FOREST INVENTORY

JDSF: Approximately 5,000 temporary plots have been installed to determine various types of stand data, including timber inventory. The contractor made progress on final checking of inventory data submitted.

JDSF and LDSF: The continuous forest inventory (CFI) plots have been re-measured.

ROADS

BMDSF: The 300, 400, 500, 520 and 600 roads were winterized and damage repaired with a D-6 dozer and a grader.

JDSF: Most roads on JDSF were closed for the winter season in October to protect the road surfaces and aquatic resources. All roads remain open for other non-motorized forms of travel including walking, bicycling, and horseback riding.

JDSF: Forest Road 630 (Caspar watershed) was fully decommissioned. This project was funded by a grant from the Dept. of Fish & Game and included the decommissioning of over 3 miles of roadway constructed during the 1960s.

TOURS

JDSF & the Dept. of Fish and Game held a joint tour of road decommissioning and unanchored large woody debris placement in the Caspar Planning Watershed for 18 members of the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission.

JDSF: School field tours of the Forest have begun and will continue throughout the year.

MHDSF: The forest manager gave a tour of the Forest to 15 resource managers from Mexico including biologists, recreation specialists, fire control managers and foresters.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

JDSF: The USFS/Redwood Sciences Lab hired 2 new Americorps personnel to work this winter.

JDSF has begun infrastructure repairs at monitoring stations in both the North and South Fork weirs on Caspar Creek.

JDSF staff assisted in the annual Fish and Game electro-fishing survey of salmonid habitat use in Caspar Creek.

JDSF: Devices have been installed to measure sediment coming from selected segments of forest roads, as part of a research project being funded by a grant from the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service.

SDSF: Sudden Oak Death research and monitoring continued on the forest.

SDSF: Completed habitat typing for two of the five electro-fishing stations.

FOREST RECREATION AND ADMINISTRATION

BMDSF: UC Davis held a bike race with approximately 100 entrants in November.

BMDSF: Trail work sponsored by the Friends of Boggs Mountain re-routed portions of Mac's and Shaker Trails.

BMDSF: Lake County Volunteer Search and Rescue held exercises at BMDSF in November.

BMDSF: The Lake County Crawlers fabricated and installed a barbecue pit for a special use campground.

JDSF: The annual CDF Law Enforcement training class was held in Fort Bragg with training on the forest.

JDSF: The campgrounds are closed until May. Most of the fire rings at Dunlap have been replaced.

JDSF: Five dumpster-loads of illegally dumped trash were collected from Road 513.

LDSF: Salvaged some dead pine and cedar trees that were hauled to Sugar Pine and Trinity River Camps, to be milled for use as sign boards and fence posts.

LDSF: Deer season saw many hunters with heavy use of the campgrounds.

MHDSF: Mt. Home crews assisted with the broadcast burning of three units totaling 23 acres as part of the effort to reintroduce ground fire in the grove areas.

MHDSF: Work started on the holding corrals at the pack station to complete the conversion to metal fencing.

SDSF: Covered dozens of brush piles with Kraft paper at the shaded fuel break and other locations in preparation for winter burning.

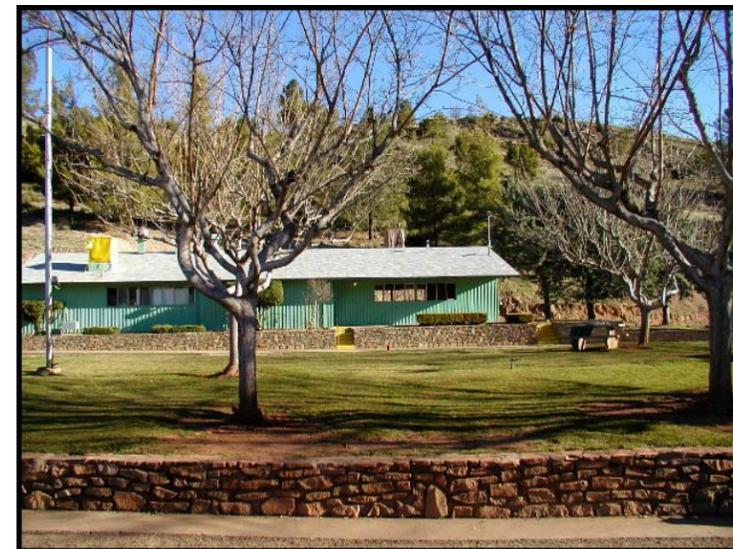
SDSF: The Stewards of Soquel Forest (www.soquelforest.org) held their first trail work day of the new season. Fourteen volunteers completed maintenance of Tractor Trail.

Conservation Camps and the Demonstration State Forests—Part II

In the last issue of our newsletter we talked about the Conservation Camps that are jointly operated by CDF and the California Department of Corrections (DOC). In particular, there is a special association between certain camps and state forests. The last issue discussed the Jackson Demonstration State Forest and the two camps housed within the forest, Parlin Fork and Chamberlain Creek. In this issue we look at Konocti Camp and the Boggs Mountain and Las Posadas Demonstration State Forests and the Mountain Home Camp and forest.

Konocti Camp / Boggs Mountain & Las Posadas Forests

Konocti Conservation Camp was established in 1961. The camp is a minimum security (i.e. no fences) year-round correctional facility. It can house 100-115 inmates. Each crew consists of 15 inmates, a fire captain and a driver of the crew carrying vehicle (CCV). CCVs transport crews for various projects. Crews are most often assigned projects requiring significant manual labor. During the summer, their highest priority is to perform firefighting duties. During the winter months, they perform projects for federal, state and local entities in the counties surrounding the camp. The projects include state forests and parks trail and firebreak maintenance. For example, Konocti Camp performs work for Boggs Mountain and Las Posadas State Forests and Clear Lake State Park. The contracting groups reimburse CDF \$1/mile and \$5/day per chain saw used up to a maximum of \$160 per day.



Entrance to Konocti Conservation Camp.

CDF and the Department of Corrections jointly manage the inmates and facility. Approximately ten CDF Fire Captains direct the inmates project-work during the day. This includes feeding the wards on the project, maintenance of the tools, and camp maintenance (painting, laundry, kitchen, gardening, water treatment plant maintenance, heavy equipment maintenance etc.). DOC manages the group during the night and is responsible for the food, cooking equipment, and the ward's medical care. Nine DOC employees perform this work at Konocti. Both organizations audit the program.

These inmates must meet several requirements to participate in a camp: not be a violent offender, cannot be an arsonist, and the crime for which they are serving prison time must be their first major offense. They must also receive safety

training for the jobs they perform. The typical inmate term at this camp is between six months and three years.

Camps specialize in producing various saleable products for use in the state government. If they have the raw materials, camps can produce wood furniture from wood retrieved from road right-of-way clearing. Work is requested by all public entities (i.e. state, federal, local groups) who submit formalized project requests.

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