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DATE OF RELEASE:
April 6, 2021

MENDOCINO UNIT

Observatory Trail

Mendocino County, CA– California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s (CAL FIRE) Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) along with our partners, the Mendocino Coast Cyclists (MCC), are excited to announce the opening of the two-mile Observatory Trail on JDSF.

This new trail is located below a ridge, between the Forest History Trail and the intersection of County Road 408 and JDSF Road 700, paralleling County Road 408. The MCC proposed the trails location to create a safer alternative for recreationalist along County Road 408. The funds for this trail came from a grant received by one of the MCC’s sponsors. JDSF provided technical advice for the trail’s layout, environmental review, and surveys for the project.

The Observatory Trail was created using a combination of machine power and hand crew/volunteer efforts. Within the last several decades’ trails have been primarily constructed with hand tools so a recreation trail construction utilizing machinery is unique to JDSF.

The Observatory Trail provides both an improvement for recreation and an opportunity for JDSF to demonstrate the construction of a machine built trail in cooperation with the MCC. JDSF’s existing trail network includes historic trails created during the stream donkey and splash dam logging era, traveled surfaces of roads and skid trails and to access research areas. This new observation trail provides an opportunity to showcase the compatibility of recreation with an actively managed working Forest.

JDSF thanks the MCC for their partnership on this project and looks forward to working with the group in the future.

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