

Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group

May 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: JAG George Hollister (GH), Doug Albin (DA), Mike Anderson (MA), Amy Wynn (AW), Darcie Mahoney (DM), and Charlie Schneider (CS) JDSF Mike Powers (MP), Robert Horvat (RH), Jason Serna (JS), Lynn Webb (LW), and Julie Rhoads (JR) Guest/Public Attendees: Kevin Conway (CAL FIRE State Forest Program Manager) and Wayne Bohlen (Boys and Girls Club)

Call to Order and Introductions

Review/Approve Previous Meeting Minutes: *Review Item* Review of minutes from the November 5, 2018 JAG Meeting. Motion to approve by Darcie Mahoney and second by Amy Wynn. Unanimous approval of minutes as presented. Kimberly Rodrigues and John Andersen absent. (AW) Appreciates new format of minutes, helps to remember conversations. (MP) JDSF changed format of minutes to record comments and resubmit in timely manner to JAG for review.

Exparte Communication Disclosure: George Hollister sent an email regarding a field review of logging off Little Lake Road, and direct response was sent from Darcie Mahoney.

Staff Reports

Robert Horvat

Mushroom sales did very well this year. Campgrounds will open Memorial Day Weekend. Staff is currently working on campground maintenance and improvements. Currently working on rebuilding three outhouses. Due to the busy 2018 Fire season, HFEO staff time on JDSF was lost. Various projects did not get completed. The Road 810 Project includes replacing priority culverts near a Class I watercourse. Work is being completed by a contractor. Working with Mendocino Coast Cyclists to build 2 miles of trail from Road 700 to the Forest History Trail. The purpose of this trail is to have a safe route off of County Roads 408 and 409 and connect trail system. 2019 planned work includes more road brushing and the Three Chop Ridge Shaded Fuel Break (on Road 1000). Powers is working on finding funding for this project. (MA) How are you dealing with maintenance and (GH) French broom issues? (LW) JDSF will be using herbicides in accordance with IVM. (MP) JDSF currently has a broom treatment contract for THP associated roads. Continued maintenance is very important. Working on how to manage budget for a maintenance cycle. (RH) Previously the crews maintained Road 1000 but they haven't been available for a while. Questions put forth by JAG committee: (AW) Is JDSF doing treatment of invasive along Road 500? (RH) JDSF is opening spur roads, no herbicides currently. (AW) Where are culverts being installed? (JS) Culverts on Road 500 are being replaced as part of the Caspar Matrix Timber Sale. (GH) Have you gone to using HDPV culverts? (RH) Using poly-coated steel pipes on Road 80. Using different materials strategically. Using poly-coated pipes on east side of the Forest where there is more fire potential. (GH) What is the life of a HDPV pipe? (MP) Meet CalTrans specs, life span is 25-30 years. (AW) On behalf of Mendocino Coast Cyclists, thank you for work (and cooperative efforts) in the 408 x 409 area to create a safer route away from shooting range and off county road.

Lynn Webb

Planting was completed this winter. There was not enough refrigeration space to accommodate the number of seedlings required to plant all acres this year. Herbicide treatment completed at Chamberlain Confluence. Three events planned for the spring: Caspar Annual Meeting - May 8-9 at the Fort Bragg Library, increasing interest and attendance. Will take a couple years to get study results from current/completed logging in Caspar. Working on coordinating researchers for monitoring and problem solving. Want to outreach to professionals. Will create a symposium to share study results. Advanced Silviculture Tour - June 13-14. Multi-aged working group, coordinated by Nick Kent and Yana Valachovic. Working off studies by Lindquist and Barrel, camping at Tilly. Insect and Disease and Weed Tour - July 16-18; Day one- Insects and Disease Tour coordinated with Forest Pest Council. Looking at Bishop Pine decline and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* at recreational trailheads. Day two and three- Weed Tour will cover Parks, MRC, Lyme, JDSF (Park Gulch Demo Trail), Conservation Fund, and Soper Wheeler. Discussion of herbicides, relevant to reforestation foresters. Attendance from CA, OR, and ID. (DM) Is JDSF subject to Measure V? (MP) No, because JDSF is state property and Measure V is a county ordinance. JDSF does not want to limit ability to demonstrate different practices relevant to California forestry. Upcoming research projects: Amphibian eDNA study, creating new protocols to capture different species in places and times. Three Green House Gas Funded Projects: Silviculture Studies on DSFs, Terrestrial LiDAR study, Hardwood management and utilization study with MIT PhD. Effectiveness Monitoring Committee Studies: Bat project (Michael Baker) and Hermit warbler study. Working on 5-year contract for Caspar with USFS. Continuing bridge and trail infrastructure work in Caspar with CCCs. Issues include permitting, getting products from Parlin, and ensuring design specifications are approved by engineer. Questions put forth by JAG committee: (AW) Can you expand on amphibian eDNA project? (LW) Working with one of the best researchers in the west. Based out of WA, she has done work on Green Diamond and MRC. This project will give us a better idea of what amphibians are in different streams on JDSF. This is cost effective and less invasive. Will be a good demonstration of the technology. (AW) Will eDNA give enough data to determine how amphibians use the landscape? (MP) This survey will not provide details on behavior, it is a presence / absences survey, which is lacking on JDSF. Currently JDSF relies on CNDDDB or CDFW stream survey reports. (DM) Do you anticipate issues with showing occurrences resulting in management restrictions? (MP) It will be specific to discreet stream reaches, do not anticipate additional restrictions. (CS) Did you do a cost benefit analysis for eDNA? Concerned with cost because of the special distribution of samples and multiple field days. Related similarity to spawning surveys v pit tags. (MP) This type is a much less invasive method. Costs \$120k, which may be less than labor costs of other types of surveys. JDSF can add cost comparisons to survey summary. (LW) Working on getting good information on timing of surveys, and what will make a feasible demonstration. (GH) What drove the interest in the Hermit Thrush? (LW) Researcher is looking into migratory shifts of song birds as a result of climate change. (MA) What is the progress of the biochar study? (MP) Creating biochar on site with a small plant. Working on how to package and ship the product. (MA) Isn't there a lot of heat produced? (MP) Will have to determine restrictions, but the mechanisms are internal. Seeking how to find a balance between shipping costs and product value. (MA) Will green or seasoned tanoak be processed? It would be good to demonstrate this prior to timber sales to show LTOs the process. What is the timing for this project? (MP) Green material, it will follow behind logging operations. JDSF will be working on this demonstration at the 23 Gulch Timber Sale. It will be completed this year or next. (DM) Great that JDSF is trying to figure out this issue. (GH) What is the market for biochar? (MP) Would like to market for water filtration systems which is higher value. Likely would be used for agriculture soil amendment. (MA) Lyme Redwood might have material available if JDSF isn't ready for the project. (AW) Is there an ecological benefit to putting the biochar into

the soil on site? (LW) This might be a good demonstration, refer to Usal (RIFI) project. (KC) USFS is studying application of biochar in the Stanislaus.

Jason Serna

2018 THP work continued on SF Caspar THP. Matrix currently finishing road work on Road 500. Will be completed soon. Porter lopping completed in winter 2018. TSA is completed. Sequoia finished logging gauged watersheds just before winter period. Did not finish road decommissioning, starting in June. 0.5 MMBF to log this season with two yarders. Falling has begun and will finish this month. Camp 8- Currently falling and hauling decked logs from 2018. Yarding and hauling will resume next week. 0.4 MMBF remains on the west side. Anticipate 6 weeks of logging remaining. Wonder Crossing - Waiting to resume logging until roads dry and complete NSO surveys. Work will continue through summer including road brushing on boundary.

2019 Timber Sales: 23 Gulch - Sold to Willits Redwood Company; Anderson Logging is the LTO. Amending Winter Operations as a demonstration and to provide winter work. Bear Gulch – Sold to Conrad, Hautala is the LTO. TSA includes Road 300 bridge replacement. Chamberlain Creek – no bids. Possibly related to high fir component and bridge replacement issues. 2019 THP preparation: Parlin 17 – Resubmit this month. Will sell in December. James Creek – Almost done marking. May be an option to sell this year. Boundary Creek- Priority to sell in 2020. Soda Gulch- Late summer submittal. Caspar Confluence- will do a JAG tour here in November. Planned to sell in 2021. Working on a display for kiosk at scales. (AW) A research and demonstration narrative would be valuable to display. NF Big River- contracted RPF Lee Susan (Summit Forestry). Submittal planned for the fall, and logging planned in 2021. Questions put forth by JAG committee: (AW) Are these plans in the Caspar area all occurring within 2-3 year time span? Can we increase time span to not affect mountain biking opportunities? (JS) There are many plans in the area because they are in valuable timber ground. Plans are fluid. (MP) Working on Landscape Plan to communicate long-term plans with the public. (JS) No firewood sales this year. (GH) Is the NF Big River THP being contracted out due to staffing shortage at JDSF? Who makes the decision on silviculture? (MP) JDSF wants to have more plans in the library to create more flexibility with market conditions. JDSF and FMP determine silviculture. (GH) How much oversight is there on logging operations? Do you spend time in the brush? Continuity is being lost between plan submitter and supervision. (JS/MP) JDSF staff spends significant amount of time doing logging admin. Field supervision is likely higher than elsewhere. Working on getting Forestry Aides time with LTOs and fallers to get that perspective. (AW) Will Caspar Confluence be selection silviculture? (LW) Yes, with some cluster selection. (AW) Provide more details on the NF Big River THP? (JS) Will minimize damage to trails. Trails will be rehabbed after operations. (DM) Sounds like Caspar area is getting hit hard. (MP) We have flexibility with timing since plans are good for 7 years. (AW) When mountain bikers ask why there is so much activity in Caspar, explain to them that JDSF is working through the FMP and with the JAG. Operations have progressed to more populated areas. (MP) This relates to the Landscape Plan, to be able to work with stakeholders. Plans are tied to past management, silviculture, frequency of operations. JDSF is trying not to concentrate operations; the South Fork Caspar was a unique case. (MA) Can the effects of logging vs. road work be teased out in Caspar since they were completed in different years? (LW) Various parts of the project overlap so might be able to get some of that data.

Mike Powers

Landscape Plan: This will be a 10-year plan that provides information to JAG. It will be tied to the FMP and Option A. Forest Resource Inventory (FRI): The FRI is an ownership wide, comprehensive timber resources inventory. Completed in 2017, data analysis continued through 2018. Comparing 2005 to 2017 FRI data, JDSF is clearly practicing sustainable management and increasing timber inventory. (DA) Does this comparison reflect slow-down during lawsuit? (MP) yes, it is included. (MP) Option A allows 20-25 and no more than 35 MMBF per year allowable harvest. JDSF currently harvesting half of what is growing, and increasing QMD in accordance with FMP. (CS) Similar table would be helpful to provide the JAG. The Road 200 bridge replacement will happen this summer, impacting the Boys and Girls Club. Looking at alternate routes. Road 200 upgrades have been in the work for 6-8 years. 21 bridges need replacement on the forest. The Little Red Schoolhouse Phase I was completed in 2018. An interpretive three sided panel has been completed in 2019. (GH) How are the restrooms doing at Camp 20? (MP) The restroom generates the most consistent complaints. Working on CEQA which will include upgrade to FLC septic system. Multiple issues working in this area. Replacement date is 2020. Road 540 Maintenance Project: Simpson/Gibney/Mitchel area (South Fort Bragg Fire Safe Council) formed, and is looking for additional ingress/egress though JDSF etc. on Road 540. The road crosses through sensitive Pygmy Forest and Jughandle Reserve. It is 1.5 miles that needs to be graded as well as minor brushing. Road has not been upgraded for a long time. There are bare areas resulting from previous road openings. Will need to bring in gravel to create rolling dips. Pygmy expert Teresa Scholars was consulted for potential impacts to habitat. It was discussed that poor road drainage transmits water offsite, and drainage upgrades would be beneficial to pygmy. Can offset road work by placing brush on bare areas to encourage regrowth. (DM) Will State Parks have issues maintaining portion on their property? (MP) 80-90% is on JDSF. (GH) Will this road be used in the winter time? Who will have access? (MP) Access will be restricted. Primary use is for emergency ingress/egress in fire emergencies. JDSF, CAL FIRE, FBFD, and State Parks will have access. Opening will also allow access for LE patrols and medical emergency response on JDSF or State Parks. CS, AW, DM voiced various support for the project.

Road 540 Road Maintenance *Review Item* JDSF asked the JAG committee to agree that the Road 540 Road Maintenance Project complies with the Forest Management Plan. Motion to approve by Amy Wynn and Second by Charlie Schneider. Unanimous. Kimberly Rodrigues and John Andersen absent.

Field Tour

Soda Gulch Timber Harvest Plan. Reviewed 2 crossing abandonments on Road 110 enroute to the Soda Gulch THP area. Crossings were installed by JDSF HFEOs. This is not a fish bearing stream. There was some downcutting in both crossings over the winter. Discussed digging deeper, adding armoring, and widening channel possibly could have reduced downcutting. There is a possibility that work could be done to correct issues, but not likely. Soda Gulch THP is a selection THP in the OFDA. Where current trees per acre allow, trees will be harvested down to 120 ft²/acre. Areas that don't currently meet that stocking standard will not have timber harvested. The plan area will treat overabundant hardwoods and plant redwood in these areas. These areas will be treated similarly to a rehabilitation. Questions/Comments from JAG Committee: (GH) It is a good idea to treat this tanoak. More landowners should do hardwood treatments, but there is no economic incentive. (MA) How will the tanoak be treated? (JS) Frill treatment method.

(DM) Did you consider masticating tanoak and huckleberry prior to planting? (MA) Consider doing multiple treatments, including walking over and crushing brush with a tractor. Masticator multiple times more expensive. (JS) Wouldn't we still need to come back to treat sprouts? (DM) Huckleberry resprouts prolifically. Don't envision much improvement to planting conditions without treating huckleberry. (MP) JDSF will consider demonstrating variety of treatment options. It would be a good demonstration of effectiveness and economic viability. (LW) Soda Gulch THP is in the OFDA, which was a management strategy designed for stand conditions more often found on west side of the Forest. (GH) Will we leave the larger tanoak? (JS) Yes, tanoak greater than 24" DBH are retained except in rare cases. (GH) This ground has good soil, when hardwoods are removed the conifer will take off. (AW) Is this designated as OFDA because it connects habitat types or are there actually structural components of older forest? (LW) LSD type was designated because it has those structures and older trees. OFDA is managed considering the expectations of economic returns of a landowner. (MA) OFDA management designations were a compromise during early JAG period as opposed to LSD. There was confusion at the time that OFDA areas would be preserved. They are to be managed, and not to be taken out of production like LSD. (GH) Would like to see what the marked stand looks like. Would feel more comfortable reaching a decision. (DM) Agreed. (JS) The plan is in the early stages, and access is limited to other areas this time of year. (DM) Why take half of the basal area? (MP) Allowable amount under the FMP and Option A. Taking less than half, with additional no-cut areas. Need to generate revenue to pay for regeneration. (LW) Need to make room for regeneration. (MA) Will there be inclusions in this plan, such as bridges? It might help sell this plan if not. (JS) No inclusions planned for that reason. (MA) There are not many loggers around anymore, so the project has to be productive to sell. Mills don't want to tie up loggers on less productive ground. (JS) Correct, JDSF only got 3 bids on 3 sales this year, a big decrease from past years. (MP) We want to get this plan done and be opportunistic about when to sell. Looking into ways to make it more appealing, including winter operations, giving more flexibility to tractor operations, etc. (DM) Likes the idea of doing different treatment types as long as we're not having the effect of a clearcut. (LW) Agree, don't want to create uniform stand conditions. Looking at stand from landing, it is apparent that Douglas fir is emerging from the hardwood stand. Some evidence of black stain on saplings. (DM) Again would like to see more progress on the plan before voting on this. (MP) The JAG Summary contains all the relevant information and will not change prior to plan submittal. (DM) Agrees with management goals of the plan but the discussion/presentation feels vague. (GH) Discussed JAG wanting to look at each project despite similarities or repetitions. Group discussion regarding ability to vote on the plan. Group is supportive of the objectives and reiterated previous concerns. (MP) Expressed appreciation of the JAG to provide valuable input.

Soda Gulch THP *Review Item* JDSF asked the JAG committee to find that the Soda Gulch THP complies with the Forest Management Plan. Motion to approve by Mike Anderson and Second by Darcy Mahoney. Unanimous. Yes, with Comment(s): (DM) Seconds motion despite vague presentation. Would have liked to see marked stand. Kimberly Rodrigues and John Andersen absent

James Creek Habitat Restoration Project

This is a project that Robert Horvat coordinated. Discussed long process of securing grants and implementing the project. The site was a natural bedrock falls with a 10' drop that impeded migration of coho. The site was further impacted by CalTrans measures to stabilize Highway 20. The falls were removed and channel elevated. The site was engineered by John Mann. PWA was the project manager and Mendocino Land Trust did project administration. The project took two years and \$800,000 for installation, not including time or cost of planning and engineering.

Boundary Creek Timber Harvest Plan

This is another selection silviculture plan in the OFDA. It will include another entry into the Pleiades Uneven-Age Silviculture Demonstration. Considerations of impacts to recreation will need to be made, since the plan is adjacent to camp grounds, trails, and access road to Camp One. Cleanup of trail system will occur after harvest. Visited the collapsed railroad tunnel. Discussed scoping for MAMU and need for surveys. Questions/Comments from JAG Committee: (GH) Will campgrounds etc. need to be shut down during logging operations? (JR) Recreation activities will need to be shut down during operations, but we will strategize timing to minimize impacts. (MA) Consider using 350 for winter operations when campgrounds are closed. (AW) Will trail be closed like it was at Caspar? (JS) Yes, but Caspar was more complicated. (MP) Will get word out that the Caspar trail is reopened.

Boundary Creek THP Review Item JDSF asked the JAG committee to find that the Boundary Creek/Redtail THP complies with the Forest Management Plan. Motion to approve by Darcy Mahoney and Second by Doug Albin. Unanimous. Kimberly Rodrigues and John Andersen absent.

Public Comment

(MA) What is the status of the rock pits? (MP) Developed the Road 900 rock pit. Have stockpiled 5,000 yds of pit-run on site. Working on developing Road 408 and 810 pits. (MA) Did you have to blast? (MP) No, used equipment. (DM) Did the county pay for rock added to road 408? (JS) The county did a lot of work, JDSF contributed during timber sales. (GH) Expressed appreciation for all who volunteer their time on the JAG. (MP) Second appreciation. There are open positions if anyone knows an interested party. (AW) Expressed that it is rewarding to be part of the JAG and see the process of collaboration.