Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group
August 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Wednesday August 3, 2021

Committee Members in attendance: George Hollister (GH), Doug Albin (DA), Michael Jones (MJ), Charlie Schneider (CS), John Andersen (JA), and Amy Wynn (AW), Chris Blencowe (CB)

JDSF Staff in attendance: Robert Horvat (RH), Jason Serna (JS), Lynn Webb (LW), Tori Norville (TN), Jeremiah Steuterman (JS2), Peter Rowland (PR)

CAL FIRE: Matthew Reischman (MS), Kevin Conway (KC)

Guest/Public Attendees: Open to general public (P)

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** Note. These minutes are not a “word for word” transcript of the meeting, though all points and speakers are covered. Presentations by JDSF staff were reduced to bullet points to better capture the information presented. Public comments and exchanges between JAG members and JDSF staff were recorded as spoken, with minor omissions of “ums”, redundancies, and informal speech.

Review of minutes from the April 28, 2021 JAG Meeting. Motion to approve by Charlie Schneider and second by John Anderson
Yes: Unanimous
Yes, with Comment(s): N/A
No: N/A
Other: 
1800: Meeting Start

GH: Call to order. Welcome Everybody. Please have your seats. Would like to ensure everyone can speak. Would like to keep to time limit, but can go over. Please sign in. Please where a mask. Meeting expectations are helpful dialogue and format for the future. Introduction of JAG members.

Would like JAG to review the minutes. Need a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Minutes are available on the website. Would like to entertain motion to approve the minutes.

Motion to approve by John Anderson. Motion seconded by Charlie Schneider

P: Request for copy of meetings minutes and agenda

GH: Do we have copies of minutes?

KC: We do not post the minutes until after you approve them.

GH: Okay those minutes will be posted after they are approved

P: Request to speak louder for the hearing impaired.

GH and KC: Exchange on microphone use. Hold button, speak close to microphone.

G: Motion on the floor to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion caries. Ex Parte Communications? Hearing none.

GH: We will now move on to the administration update and I will give the floor to Kevin Conway for an update on the administration of JDSF.

KC: Administration Update:
  • Mike Powers Retired. Job flown with final filling date of August 12th. May have new manager at the end of August if a qualified applicant is found.
  • Mike Anderson resignation from JAG
  • Advertised RPF for JAG. Chris Blencowe accepted. September BOF confirmation.
  • Review of JAG Terms. (Mike Jones and Doug Albin next up for renewal)
  • Vacancy of licensed timber operator position on JAG.
  • In discussion on additional JAG position, possible physical sciences role.
  • Letter submitted by George Hollister and other JAG members to the Director. The Director and the BOF have responded notifying the JAG on progress and plans for community outreach.

JS: Timber Sale Update
  • Bear Gulch #2 timber sale finished last year. Road work completed one month ago. Lopping ongoing. Will wrap up next month.
  • South THP. Sold last year. Finishing culvert installations last week and lopping almost complete.
  • Parlin. Logging complete. 4,800 mbf. $1.9 million in revenue. Road decommissioning and fuel break left. Couple months to finish.
    o Prescribed fire last winter
    o Prescribed fire planned for the fall
- Camp 17 Timber Sale. Part of Parlin THP. Finished in June.
  - 1,900 mbf
  - Revenue $700,000
  - Volume estimates were correct
  - 100 yds of rock left to spread
- Moe
  - Operation continuing. Falling, yarding, and hauling 4-6 weeks to completion.
  - Cut 3,000 mbf. 500 mbf remains to be felled
  - Lopping and culvert work remaining
- Redtail
  - 700 mbf felled and 700 mbf on ground
  - Timing of operations delayed by trespassers
  - Road work on 350 delayed until next summer
    - Approximately 1-2 months of work
    - Will likely start after 4th of July
- Caspar 500
  - Operational pause
  - Blue gum trail upgrade delayed
    - If done it will be next year
    - $70,000 cost
    - Flying in rock and bridge beams for Class I trail crossing
- Chamberlain
  - Wrapping up tractor operations on ridge
  - Cable yarding in June
  - Trespass minor disruption
  - Will go until rain or finish of job. Whichever comes first.
- Soda Gulch
  - Delayed due to equipment availability
  - Talking to purchaser on weekly basis to coordinate start date.
- PGE Right of Way
  - Dispute between LTO and purchaser
  - Will maybe start next week
  - LTO coming in from Colorado
  - Will take over a year. Will involve tree climbing
- Future plans update
  - Mitchell creek and LNF Big River in Review
  - Boundary Creek and Old Berry due to be submitted soon.

GH: Jason are you finished? There appears to be a question in the back. Sir will you please state your name.

P: Yes, Alder. Jason Serna in his report mentions a lot about board feet, which is clearly what he is concerned about. How about the ecological impact of these THP’s?

JS: I wouldn’t say that’s what I’m concerned about. Nor is it my only concern. The ecological part is –

P: Someone else will address that?
LW: We have a format that will logically go through issues and why we’re doing this. I would prefer, and it depends on how you would like to work this George (Hollister) -

P: Would you prefer us to save questions?

GH: It sounds like a general question that would fit in better later. I thought it might be specific to what Jason was talking about. I will make sure that question gets asked specifically. Is there another question?

P (Joanne): Listening to talk about board feet cut out of this forest. Are we going to take into consideration forest is more valuable standing. Cleans the air and sequesters carbon. If you cut a tree that is 100 yrs old, it will not be back for another 100 yrs, we may not have time considering climate crisis.

GH: I appreciate that. We are going to talk about that under sustainable forestry in the agenda. That would be the place to bring that up.

P: Sounds like this is when it needs to be brought up. What has been presented is not sustainable.

GH: Do you have a question over there?

P: I am concerned about fire, drought, chainsaws, and the big machinery out there. Last time I was on one of those logging roads there was at least a foot of dust. I guess they stopped watering. Also concerned about equipment starts. I’d like to ask Jason what are the provisions around fire and drought related to logging?

GH: Part of that would fit in with Jason’s presentation and part of that I think we could talk about later under sustainable forestry. Jason could you address where the water is coming from and how dust abatement is being handled.

JS: We are using dust off on roads and well water. Nothing has been taken out of the Noyo this year.

GH: Jackson, unlike a number of other landowners, has a developed water supply for this purpose.

P: Well water is free right

GH: I don’t know about that. By the time you pay for the well and the tanks it’s not quite free.

GH: What I’d like to -

P: Let me just ask one more thing.

GH: Okay

P: CDF has told people not to use lawnmowers. Why are you using chainsaws when we can’t use lawnmowers.
**JS:** Fallers have to carry a extinguisher or fire tool with them. They also have to have 1000 gallons of water within an hours drive. They also have fire tools onsite at the landing, and personnel available to fight the fire. There are rules in the Forest Practice Rules and Inspectors that come out and inspect on a regular basis.

**P:** Do these rules change when we are in severe drought or fire hazard?

**JS:** I don’t know that they change. They might have been made assuming we live in a temperate climate.

**GH:** We are getting into some specifics that may be better address later. There have been times in the past where CAL FIRE has stepped up and had extra requirements in extremely dry weather. This lady in the front has a question.

**P (Ravel):** One of the THPs that Jason referenced mentioned that slash has not been lopped. How long ago was that THP completed. Slash left behind contributes to the severe fire hazard. Any amount of time contributes to that fire hazard and makes it very likely that the entire forest will burn. How long has it been since that THP was completed and you still haven’t cleaned up what was left behind?

**JS:** It was about 6 months ago and it [slash] is still very green. It is still difficult to light. I tried burning piles last year six months after the operation, actually correction 3-4 months, and it was difficult to light. They are lopping it now and piles will be burned this fall.

**GH:** I appreciate that question. Why don’t we carry this over.

**KC:** We are pretty early in the agenda George. Recommend that we move forward maybe we can address public comments later in the agenda. Remind audience we have a mike for public comments. Please keep comments to 3 min or less. Let’s have RH address road and recreation.

**RH:** I’m going to talk about roads and recreation. I will include the road work Jason was talking about.

- New road 5 miles seasonal and temp. 4 miles of road abandonment. Net gain of 1 mile.
- 12 miles of road improvement including THPs, public works, and staff equipment operators.
- Replaced 3 bridge superstructures. Removed wood beams and replaced with precast concrete.
- One bridge in contract. Two large crossings in development.
- CDFW fisheries grant program restoration in this year in Hare Creek and next year in Bear Gulch.
- Campground use similar to last year. Low to moderate during week, higher on weekend. Campgrounds pretty full on holidays.
- Camp 1 closed due to Red Tail and road 350 improvements. Camp 1 represents 50% of campgrounds on forest. Working with timber sale to coordinate closures. Same case at Chamberlain THP. Road 200 is closed due to THP and Road work. Closed access to Waterfall Grove and Trestle Trail. Recreation staff needs to be supplemented with full time maintenance and seasonal position. Trying to fill two seasonal positions for maintenance. Shortage of applicants. Would like to fly the full time maintenance position this winter.
- Two recreation events happening this year.
  - Ibis Migration Mountain Bike Tour. West side of forest (August 20-21).
  - Equestrian event in the Chamberlain area. North American Trail Riders Conference (two days in September).
Both events have been impacted by harvest, but both groups were cooperative in adjusting the routes. Next summer the projected impacts will be very similar due to delays in the Redtail and Caspar 500 THPS. Chamberlain may also impact recreational facilities if it does not finish.

GH: Okay, thank you. Lynn will you do the research and demonstration part?

LW: Yes

GH: Okay thank you.

LW: This is a smattering of what is going on right now (referencing list of projects on screen).

- Mixture of internal projects and external projects.
- Internal studies include the regeneration study.
- Green House Gas Grant projects are ongoing.
- Community science project at Mushroom Corner.
- Barred Owl study and bobcat study ongoing with other agencies.
- Learning Center is at capacity given the implemented covid protocols.
- Contract with UC Extension is moving forward.

AW: Is that for public outreach?

LW: Yes.

GH: Let’s move on to the government to government consultation. Kevin Conway will present on that.

KC: Last meeting we mentioned that we had begun a government to government consultation with the Coyote Valley Pomo, but only briefly touched on it.

- Begin with what is government to government consultation and how does it differ from regular communication.
- US government and State of California recognize the tribal governments as self governing.
- Past governments (Governors Newsom and Brown) have established the framework for consulting with tribal government. There is the most interest right now in the State Forest Program and what is happening on the ground.
- Recap of how we interact with tribes. CAL FIRE has a Native American Advisory Council. Typically regional or statewide scope. Individual project consultation through CEQA process. Notification of tribes of any ground disturbing activities. We reach out during the development. Notify tribes of what we will do and where. Do not always receive response. Opportunity to improve communication through the government to government consultation. Both a general pathway and specific CAL FIRE procedures.
- Consultation with both the Coyote Valley Band including general land management and treatment of cultural sites. Sherwood Valley band has also requested a consultation in regards to specific THP’s. Will likely develop to more engagement with the landscape.
- Presentation of timeline and progress of the consultation with the Coyote Valley Tribe. Began with outlining the agenda and protocol. Signed by Coyote Valley Pomo and CAL FIRE. Interested in sites within THP boundaries. Development of a working group to discuss specific sites and
THP. Site visits in the field with CAL FIRE staff and archaeologists. Will be another large scale planning meeting and future site visits.

- Looking forward to planned activities in regards to resources collection (foods, medicine, basket materials) and ceremonial sites. Working to increase the cultural richness and engagement.
- End of Report. Will share more as this advances.

**GH:** Does anyone from the JAG have any comments or questions

**CS:** Would like to point out that there is no seat on the JAG for a tribal representative. We can make that recommendation, but it's not in the charter.

**KC:** I think the way the charter reads the categories of expertise are suggested, but not limitations on specialties.

**CS:** I think that’s a suggestion we should formally put out there.

**KC:** Okay we’ll work on the mechanics of that. Whether it will be the JAG or CAL FIRE that makes the change. We can put it on the agenda for next time.

**GH:** Are there any other questions from the JAG on what’s been presented up to this point?

**JA:** On Redtail the road work is delayed. What is the nature of the road work?

**JS:** 1-2 months of work on Road 350. Estimated cost of $200-300 thousand dollars. Some sites could take longer than a week due to the amount of excavation.

**JA:** Are there any on fish streams?

**JS:** No all Class II crossings. Minor work within the Class I WLPZ.

**JA:** Are any an imminent failure risk.

**JS:** Not they are not

**GH:** Are there any questions that are specific to what has been presented so far?

**P(David):** I would like to make a correction to July 13th (referencing power point). The tribal consultation was not disrupted by a protest. That was a prayer circle and honoring circle for both CDF and for the native elders going into Caspar 500 to look for those historical sites. To label it as a protest is wrong. They were there to honor you and you chose not to go. I request that that be stricken from the record.

**GH:** Okay thank you. Are there any other specific questions on what has been presented? Review of public comments and presentation from community outreach. Kevin will you lead this discussion.

**KC:** I can give a general overview. We held community events since the last JAG meeting to allow the community to express what was important to them. We identified three broad topics. Sustainable forestry, fire hazard mitigation, and research and demonstration. Lynn will present on sustainable
forestry, Tori will talk about fire hazard mitigation, and Lynn will talk about research and demonstration. We have allowed 45 minutes for each topic.

**KC:** We will have presentations on fire, sustainable forestry. LW and TN will present. 45 min presentation time. 10-15 min staff presentation. 10-15 minutes for JAG questions. 10-15 minutes for public comment. We will implement a 3 min time limit for public comments. We have representatives of the Director and BOF to answer questions as well.

**LW:** I will try to cover sustainable forestry, which is complex and multi faceted, in a short time period. I will try to cover the main points.

- Themes of concerns as expressed to us. (Not sustainable, cutting too much, ignoring carbon sequestration opportunities, cutting too big of trees, cutting too intensively, not considering wildlife habitat)
- We can begin with growth and yield, discuss carbon, and then get into habitat.
- Review of the management plan. (Showing map of Management Plan allocations) Review of the land use allocations.
  - Matrix covers roughly half the forest.
  - Review of the general older forest prescription.
  - Review of Late Seral Development. Accelerate development of late seral characteristics, no expectation of future harvest after first couple entries.
- First measure of sustainable forest is growth and yield.
  - Review of growth and yield.
  - Continuous Forest Inventory oldest in the state.
  - 1959-84 direction was to cut what we grow.
  - In the 80’s we started to grow more than we cut.
  - Review of the FRI and number of plots.
  - Board feet is going up and so is basal area. Hardwood and conifer basal area are remaining steady relative to each other.

**P:** Please explain what basal area is

**LW:** Basal area is the cross section and it’s easier to measure. Board feet is trickier and is tied to merchantability. It is economic but some of the other metrics are more valuable going forward.

**GH:** There are a couple terms Lynn used that people may not be familiar with. Basal area is a standard measurement for conifer trees is the cross-sectional surface at 4.5 feet.

**P:** 4.5 feet of what?

**GH:** Above the ground.

**P:** What about the girth?

**LW:** That is the girth.

**P:** In DBH how big can you cut?

**GH:** I just wanted to make sure everyone understood what Lynn was saying.
LW: I’d like to keep going and then we can come back to questions.

P: I’d like to know if these growth charts take into account the 8 years when JDSF was not allowed to cut because of the lawsuit.

LW: Okay so –

P: Does it?

GH: Those trees did not stop growing.

LW: These trees did not stop growing.

P: Do these charts (referencing power point) for how much you cut, and how much is there, take into account the eight years you were not allowed to cut?

LW: That is just growth. The trees that were removed for harvest aren’t showing up there. That growth is regardless of the harvests going on. I’m not graphing the trees that were removed. We can figure out the fraction that grew. I was going to stay away from boring numbers.

P: It’s not boring. I want to know how much more did the forest grow when you stopped cutting?

LW: The forest is growing about 2% a year. We are cutting about 40% of growth. Those are some numbers for you. That’s an approximate. Other people have calculated other numbers.

P: (Indistinct)

GH: Let’s keep going here. We can discuss that later, that is a good question

LW: This is a summary to see if we can address those questions that have come up. Management plan has been implemented since 2008. We are doing more plans on the west side now. We know we have not exceeded an environmental threshold, but we appear to have exceeded a social threshold.

P: What’s the social threshold?

LW: I think I’m going to leave it -

P: We are way past social threshold.

LW: It’s good to keep in mind that each of these THP’s has a seven year span. Of the THP’s that have been proposed, there are certainly opportunities to refocus or refine them. The Management Plan is going to be reviewed and possibly redone in 2026 -

P: What about the trees that are being cut now?

LW: That will be coming up quickly –
P: Your cutting 40% of growth.

P: I have a question about tan oaks.

KC: If I could please ask the audience please not to interrupt and to respect the time of the Jackson Advisory Group, which is a volunteer board that we get together infrequently and we have a lot information we’d like to go over in this meeting. We do have time for public comment built into this. Your comments will be considered. Please respect the time that we have to present the information and the discussion frame of the meeting. For your comments, we will have time here in just a few minutes.

GH: I just want to make sure people understood what was going on. We are going to do the presentation, the JAG is going to ask questions, and then the audience will. That’s the way this is going to work.

P: Respect our time

LW: The 2026 update is coming up quickly. We have identified areas where we are going to do additional guidance. We have modified the management of the mushroom corners area in response to specific concerns on how to do education and research better. So there is flexibility. We note that there is changed recreation use. So far most of the things I’ve seen can be addressed within the scope of the plan.

Next up is carbon. I am not a carbon expert.
- The data is from the JDSF Forest Resource Inventory. It’s from 2017 and 2005.
- We used cubic feet to develop estimates of carbon.
- Worked with experts in the Sacramento Office and the USFS PNW to generate estimates of carbon. Using metric tones per acre.
- Redwood is approximately half the carbon storage of the forest.
- Each acre represents 211 households of yearly CO2 emissions.
- Static (Standing) existing carbon vs rate of change.
- Management of the static existing carbon. Static needs to be managed carefully. Keep it from burning.
- I am more interested in the rate of sequestration. The rate we have for JDSF is 4 metric tons CO2 per year of sequestration.
- Growth rate is what we can invest in doing better.
- Rate for Jackson is 4 metric tons per acre per year
  - Based on all of forest (pygmy, roads, powerline, etc)
  - Equivalent to 29 trips to bay area and back to Fort Bragg

P: What about the logging emissions

LW: Note, LW was distracted by question but did not answer it at that time and attempted to continue her presentation, but she made an error the carbon % should be 1.2> That ends up being 2% of growth annually. Somewhat lower than our annual volume growth. The bole is where most of the carbon sequestered. We do not have specific numbers for soil, leaf litter, snags, small vegetation. We know a lot about the bole and main stem.
P: We know a lot about second growth and how it sequesters more carbon.

GH: Let’s just wait and let her present

LW: I have seen some literature that others have sited that I would like to review.
  • Review of Sillet et al. paper looking at second growth.
    o One of the plots was on Big River Fritz Wonder Plot.
      ▪ Review of sequestration rate of stand a 65 years compared to older forest.
      ▪ Making point that the 65 year old stand sequesters carbon at a higher rate compared to older stand.
      ▪ The older forest has a lot of values the younger forest does not, but in terms of manufacturing wood from carbon it is not being as efficient as it was when it was younger.
  • Jones and O'Hara looked at
    o Scotia plantation numbers. Both of those areas are site 1 alluvial flat. JDSF has a small fraction (0.3%) of site 1.
    o Young regularly spaced stand, not aesthetically pleasing, not biologically rich, but sequestering carbon at a high rate.
      ▪ 24 Tons per acre per year

P: Jackson State is the Demonstration State Forest, why won’t you talk about Jackson State?

GH: Please –

LW: I’m going to talk about Jackson.

GH to P: You’ll have an opportunity. Please be patient.

LW:
  • The next area we will talk about is Railroad Gulch [on JDSF].
    o Control area was a no cut.
      ▪ Mixed age stand.
      ▪ Low rate of sequestration in no cut at 3.6 tons per acre per year.
      ▪ Other portions of Railroad Gulch where 38% was removed in 1982 came out about 4.4.
      ▪ Some benefit to growth on being thinned 18 years ago.
  • On a forest wide basis JDSF does not have the same condition reflected in the sites with the highest rates (young uniform stands, high site fertility, and high percentage of redwoods).
  • Great deal of uncertainty with carbon.
    o Jones found some differences in the standard conversion factors.
  • A lot of the carbon trends tie back to other ecological processes.
  • Decomp study done by the USFS. JDSF is one of 9 replicates. Beginning to compare carbon across forest types.
    o What we see is the carbon fraction in the forest floor is almost as low as in the Arizona site
    o Carbon in mineral soil is intermediate.
P: But it grows here

LW: For sustainable forestry, the summary and overview is... We have a static existing base, though it is not really static. Forest keep growing. It is changing with fire and climate

P: and cutting!

LW: Risks need to be evaluated. Being flexible and managing carefully are key to that existing stock. We need to know more about the rates and where and how we want to focus on additional sequestration opportunities. The only thing we know a lot about is how the bole grows. That’s related to the utilization of wood products. Potential future plans. We are looking at getting a carbon inventory.

P: Do that before you cut any more trees.

LW: One of the questions we would have are what are the objectives. If we are going to spend those kind of funds, how would it better inform land owners, the public, and decision makers.

P: Stop logging!

GH: Please let Lynn finish her presentation.

P: (multiple voices)

GH: Now hold on a second. Lynn is a very capable staff person and probably one of the most recognized in the state of California when it comes to the science of redwoods. Please give her some respect.

AW: I would like to add something. I very much absolutely appreciate the public’s participation today. As a JAG member I am trying to absorb the complexity of the presentations and form questions and comments. My questions keep bursting in my mind when there is an outburst out of order. Please take the opportunity, when there is public comment because we have over two hours dedicated to this. I’d like to be able to hear and absorb what you have to say and what the staff has to say, so that I can ask questions and make recommendations on behalf of all of us. If you could hold your comments until the comment period I would be massively grateful.

CH: I second that thank you Amy.

JS: I third that

LW: So, what are our objectives. If we are going to invest this kind of money, how will it make the region as a whole better.

P: Moratorium

LW:
- We also need to integrate with fire and sustainable forestry for relevance as well.
- What we have here are habitat improvements (referencing slide).
- Aquatic habitat was badly damaged by the initial historic logging.
- Map of rail roads during the historic era.
• Splash dam logging. Ingenious but impactful. Impacts from tractor logging.
• Early tractor impacts.
• These areas are in need of restoration

**P:** Then do it

**LW:**
• One of the aspects of that is large wood recruitment.
  o Review of past wood removal projects.
    ▪ This was a well meaning but misinformed effort.
  o Review of map showing stream restoration effort (map of stream restoration and road decommissioning).
  o Now the focus is on how to put wood back into the stream
  o Referencing map of past treatments
    ▪ Controls vs large woody debris treatment
    ▪ Decommissioned roads
      • Plan alternate access
      • Maintain recreation access

**P:** Why are you building roads through biggest trees?

**P:** Bogus

**LW:** Please let me finish. So that’s the story with the roads. These are both linear features –

**P:** Indistinct

**GH:** Please let Lynn complete her presentation.

**P:** Not telling the whole story

**LW:**
• These are both linear features and their interactions are important.
• We are learning from our own temperature monitoring.
  o 20yrs of temperature monitoring.
  o Trends show increasing temperature with time, even in unharvested watersheds.
• Review of the number of watercourse crossings.
  o Potential to contribute sediment when they fail.
  o Need to be repaired and upgraded.
  o We do this through THP’s and grants. These are expensive and complex.
  o If no harvest took place ever again we would still need to repair and maintain these roads

**P:** Remove them! Peoples forest!

**LW:**
• Our last step is the most recent. We have used eDNA monitoring to research amphibian distribution across the forest.
• Tailed frog is further east than would expect.
• Pacific Giant Salamander are everywhere on the forest.

P: They're not everywhere.

LW:
• So for aquatic habitat.
  o Roads and streams are a landscape issue.
  o We know fish passage, stream temperatures, and large wood all need improvement.
  o Expensive and complex
  o Work with other departments and community partners
• Caspar watershed study is yielding interesting results. Working on outreach to get this information to other landowners.

LW: We will open this to questions from the JAG. We are going to do our best to take a stab at the question now, and identify what needs a more developed discussion later.

GH: Are there questions or comments from the JAG?

CB: Given the carbon concerns is there an opportunity to do more carbon research and how do research topics develop?

LW: Our last presentation will cover research more. One of the key areas of our research plan is carbon and climate. We have a combination of FRIF funded projects. We are growing our State greenhouse grant projects. Those are competitive. We have three going on, two or three that are complete, and three applications that have gone in for this grant cycle. One has a fire component that is particularly interesting. We get outside researchers that also contact us needing a replicate in the redwood region.

GH: Are there any more questions from the JAG?

AW: Chris covered mine.

GH: I’ve learned from the research done here. Unfortunately, this information is not readily available to landowners and the public. It should be. It should be readily available to forest landowners. There is a lot going on here for the last 70 years. Anyone who is managing or interested in redwood forests really needs to be looking at it. It is too bad is not readily available.

LW: We are making efforts to get material back online. We have been making improvements.

AW: Lynn could you expand on the communication aspect? Are there any updates on the UC Extension aspect? Are there opportunities to increase the signage or informal information sessions? I find these sessions to be very rich. Are there more avenues that have been developed? Thank you, Lynn for your presentation. I think repetitive engagement is very helpful on these complex topics.

MR: I can respond. Absolutely is the answer. We have a unique opportunity to provide more information a little more readily. Its not something we can’t improve on. When it comes to the research
data, it is available. Our FRAP Program, generally when we are funding a project through our California Climate Investment Program that we get through the Air Resources Board, we are publishing that data and making that available. That doesn’t mean that we can’t make it available through the Forest or on Jackson’s website. I think we can do a better job at that. We are in the process of developing a contract for a full time PIO for JDSF.

**AL:** When JDSF has a PIO will they be able to come to the JAG meetings?

**MR:** Absolutely.

**JA:** I found this meeting QA from the website very helpful. It was very helpful to me as a JAG member. I encourage the public to take a look.

**GH:** I would like to recognize Lynn. Retiring this year. Great person and a great resource about redwood forest management. JDSF has other highly qualified staff you can engage with on aspects of the forest management. I would like to see these people interact more with the public. We are getting to the end here and we need to have public comment.

**P:** Can the public ask a question?

**GH:** Yes, you may. Please state your name.

**P:** Chris Skyhawk: I would like to back track to something I think is important. Officially that event called a protest was actually a prayer. I think it’s important that you as an official body of the state have the language clear in your minutes. It is important that things be properly labeled. I hope that the official minutes acknowledge that objection.

**GH:** Okay thank you. Next person. State your name please

**P:** Suzy Wolhouse. Thank you to Lynn for your presentation. I’ve given a lot of talks at conferences, but I’ve never done one with so many random comments. Thank you for presenting that information. I did not know about this meeting, but I’ve been following what been going on. I have a masters in conservation botany. I for my undergraduate degree I studied a chronosequence of plots that had been logged in the redwoods. I have also studied rare plant conservation in Northern Sierra Nevada. From what I have followed with the proposed reserve, I’m curious if looking at carbon sequestration. I know that a lot of what been going on and is tied to redwood as a very valuable wood. Have we looked at having NGO’s buy the forest to sell as carbon credits? I don’t have a specific question, but I have 41 seconds. I have a background in science. I do environmental education at Woodlands. I hiked the big tree trail through the THP area and I was very sad remembering how it looked as a 5th grader and thinking of how it will look after it is logged.

**GH:** Okay thank you.

**P:** Hello my name is Joanne. Am I a forest landowner since it is a State Forest? Am I part owner since it is a State Forest? Commercial logging is not an acceptable use of public land. It must be thoroughly reexamined. The timber harvest review process is fatally flawed. It is based on Forest Practice Act and California Environmental Quality Act, both of which were drafted 50 years ago. That’s a long time. With
no Native Americans at the table. There was no discussion of climate change and little understanding of
the collapse of ecosystems. I hear that you’re trying to catch up, but we need to run to catch up.

Cal Fire’s conflicts of interests are egregious and well-documented. They cannot be allowed to continue
to manage forests, review timber harvest plans, and distribute carbon-offset funds at the same time.
You must admit there must be some conflict of interest here. Jackson Demonstration State Forest’s 2016
Management Plan is being side-stepped in order to maintain a revenue stream in a state that is flush
with funds. You guys are making a lot of money, I didn’t realize that until I came here tonight. Further,
the plan is predicated on a nine hundred page Environmental Impact Report drafted three presidents
ago that has a total of four pages devoted to climate change.

Logging is a substantial consumer of water, which in these times of drought emergency is literally being
stolen from the roots of plants and the mouths of animals and humans. I know you developed a water
system, but your taking it from the trees and plants. It’s hot there. If you’re walking through its hot
there. It’s burning hot. And the piles of slash. Shame on the logging companies for not removing those.
Shame on CAL FIRE for not ensuring the logging companies remove those.

Logging with its accompanying road building is one of the most fossil-fuel intensive undertakings
humans engage in.

These forests—both public and private—are all unceded stolen land. The First Nation Peoples, after
suffering over four hundred years of savage repression –

GH: Joanne you’re over your time. Wrap it up please.

P: Thank you

P: Alder: You were talking about how your only taking 40% growth in the forest. Forgetting the
percentages, all the trees you take today will not be sequestering carbon tomorrow. Not sure if you guys
have realized, but we’re in a bit of a climate crisis. Global temperature is rising 20 times faster than it
ever has previously. One other thing I wanted to point out is that you seem to be operating under the
assumption that when you cut these trees all the carbon is sequester in long term wood products, but
that is not really the case. Studies are showing that 85% of carbon in that tree ends up getting emitted
into the atmosphere. Starting off at the live tree at 100%, logging residue emits 46% emits of that
carbon, mill residue 22%, transportation is another 17%, that leaves you with 15% of that carbon. Caspar
500 is one of 6 THP’s happening on JDSF right now and that is going to be emitting 120,000 tons of CO2
which is equivalent to 26,000 cars on the road. These are the issues I’m dealing with and I don’t see how
they are worth more laying down. Concerned about the social cost of carbon. Everybody agrees that the
social cost of the CO2 emitted is $50 per ton. Going by those number the social cost of the CO2 emitted is 8 mil and you sold it for $2 million. So the community is picking up that
bill. You mentioned aquatic life, and yeah aquatic life is very important. You are currently doing hack and
squirt in JDSF and that uses imazapyr. Imazapyr is banned in Europe because it is harmful to aquatic life.
Chamberlain creek drains into Big River, which is an important fishery, and you guys are just letting
chemicals run off into it. We are in a drought and I don’t think we should be using water to water the
roads for dust abatement. The solution is not to stop watering the roads. Part of watering the roads is to
keep that dust down and out of the watersheds. I don’t think not watering the road and driving your
logging trucks at 40 miles an hour all day long is a solution. That’s just continuing logging no matter
what. Thanks for your time.
P: My name is Anna Marie and I have a question. You said questions or comments. Will someone try to answer my question if I ask it? We passed measure V in this county by 61%. I know MRC has refused to follow that and decided to sue the county. What is JDSF’s position on hack and squirt? I saw the trees with the gashes put in them and the chemicals. What is the position of JDSF and are you ignoring the wishes of Mendocino residents.

LW: This is a tough question, and yes we recognize that folks voted for that proposition. We are a State Agency and we’ve asked questions and we’ve gotten two answers. The main answer we get is that because we are a State Agency the local proposition does not apply to us.

P: What!
P: Boo!
P: Boo!

LW: The other rational, which I think is probably more Mendocino centric, is there is also a Right to Farm that was passed. I believe it’s legislation, and that allows people engaged in agriculture to continue the methods they’ve been doing in the past, and we did do hack and squirt, or frill treatments with imazapyr prior to Measure V. We don’t take it on lightly. We have restrictions. It’s only on parts of the Forest where we’ve lost significant portions of redwood and we have extensive tan oak. Yes the redwoods are sometimes cut, and we want to make sure we don’t lose that individual redwood that has been out there on the landscape for eons. It carries genetics that are adapted to that specific site. We want to make sure that the young sprouts that are coming up thrive. We want to make sure that it is not shaded out by the large tan oak growing next to it.

P: So you’re saying you’re working under one of two exception. Either you’re saying you don’t have to follow what the people of the county want, or that you’re farming, so you’re creating tree farms out there. Is that what you’re saying?

LW: I did not say we are creating tree farms.

P: So what is the farming?

LW: I said we’re conserving the biodiversity out there.

P: You said agriculture. Farming!

LW: Forestry falls under agriculture.

P: Farming? I’m just asking.

GH: Commercial management of redwood is farming. That’s what it is. It’s agriculture. It’s dry land agriculture.

P: But Mr. Hollister this is a forest not a redwood tree farm. What I would like JDSF to do is study and research what killing tan oaks does address affects the critters, to the mushrooms, everything out there. What that poison does to the wildlife and to the indigenous people. Those acorns are poison as far as I can see, once that tree has been killed. Is that true?
**GH:** Anne Marie you’ve gone beyond your three minutes.

**P:** She spent part of it answering my question.

**LW:** I’ll be happy to speak more about this, but for now let’s continue since we have other stuff to cover.

**KC:** Chair Hollister I would like to note that we’ve had 15 minutes of public comment on this topic and we have two more comment periods after the other presentations. It’s your discretion how to proceed.

**GH:** When we move forward, since there’s so many topics, we try not to discuss a topic we’ve already covered. We’re trying to single out these specific topics for discussion in the future when we can really get into them.

**P:** Sir, I would like to correct the record. I’m Naomi Wagner. I’m going to continue in the same vein as the previous speakers. When you talk about farming, but that is not relevant. The caveat to that is that this is a public safety issue. It’s a fire hazard. CAL FIRE is in charge of fire, and does a great job of fighting fires, but you manage the forest in such a way that it creates more fires.

**GH:** The next subject is going to talk about that.

**P:** This is all related. Hack and squirt leaves standing dead trees. That is a fire hazard especially if lightning comes. They’re also a cultural resource. You obviously value redwoods more than you value tan oaks, because redwoods make board feet and redwoods make money, and bring revenue to Jackson State where tan oaks don’t. I have a question on that subject, what percentage of your budget do you spend on protection of cultural resources, including tan oaks? Another question I have is, I would like to see a study on the effects of herbicides on aquatic life, because I haven’t been able to find one that you do. And further, I guess I want to say the reason that we’re disrupting this meeting is because its bogus, and because you’re not sincere, and because you’re so far behind and out of touch with the public, and with the conditions of climate change, and you don’t seem to appreciate the urgency of this matter. The reason the youth came here tonight is because this is an urgent matter to them, and they do get it. And they wish we would get it. And when we call for a moratorium we mean we need to stop what we’re doing now, and we need to take a much deeper look at it. We cannot go on with business as usual. We call for a moratorium. Thank you.

**GH:** State your name please.

**P:** My name is Tamara, and I was wondering why the current slash is planned to be burned in the forest? That doesn’t make any sense to me. Why is it not being recycled and used for something in the community at least?

**GH:** Thank you very much for that question, and I appreciate you being brief and to the point there. I really do. I’ll tell you what, I just want to interject here. Slash is an important part of the forest ecosystem. Let’s not get too tied up with it being strictly something that burns, or something that’s ugly. It is an important part of humus in the forest. It might be just a tree that fell over and rotted, it might be a pile that some loggers left that just looks ugly as all get out. Which it doesn’t need to be. But that is humus. There are a lot of critters out there that depend on that dead material. Yes it can look ugly, and yes it can be a fire hazard, but it’s also an important part of the forest environment. It can be ugly, and it
can be a fire hazard, but it is also part of the forest environment. I just wanted to say that, because it’s something that’s irritated me for a number of years. Thank you for being short and to the point. I took up some extra time here, so let’s go on to the next speaker. State your name please.

P: My names David. With the vast amount of knowledge you appear to have accumulated over the last few years, how come you are not listening to the people that were here for 10,000 years before you. Two hundred years ago, 250 years ago, when you came to this land, and you saw the beauty of this forest, it wasn’t be accident that they were that beautiful, it was the native people taking care of them. Today you still won’t listen. Today you discount us, brush us aside, say we’re protesting when we want to honor you. Why won’t you listen to us. Explain that. When you look at the stuff that’s out there in the forest today, there is nothing there that was there when my great grandfather was there. There’s nothing left. Explain that.

GH: Thank you. My only comment to that is I think that everyone recognizes that the people that were here thousands of years ago managed this land and took responsibility for it –

P: We were here two hundred years ago, and we’re still here today. The knowledge is alive and you still won’t open your ears and listen.

GH: I don’t know anybody who isn’t interested in being knowledgeable and increasing their knowledge about how this land was managed, or is managed, or people’s thoughts from the past. I don’t know anybody who is not interested in that.

P: Your forest practices show it today. It is nothing like what happened before. We didn’t destroy the forest; we nurtured it and took care of it. We understand it. Every part and piece of that forest. All the animals. We honored it all. You came in with dollar signs in the eyes and said that tree is worth more heading down the river to make a damn piece of wood out of it than it is standing. We knew that that tree is vital to the existence of every living thing on this earth.

GH: My suggestion is please come to the next JAG meeting.

JS: David maybe you can educate me here. Kevin talked about the government to government consultations that are going on, have those been less than productive? Can you fill me in on how those have been going.

P: You aren’t listening. You’re still doing exactly what you’ve done. How is it productive when you won’t listen to us when we say, “Stop the cutting”, “Replenish the forest”, “Stop poisoning the oaks”. Those oaks are there for a reason. Those trees grow tall, the firs and the redwoods, they grow tall when they are shaded and have to grow above the canopy. Instead of being 50ft, in a couple years they’re hitting 75 ft, 100ft. They’re up there, they got to get to the light. But no, we got to poison that tree, cut it down, and make the wood unusable.

GH: Alright. Please give us your name please.

P: My name is JayJay. I’m a recreator. I moved here to work in fisheries science, monitoring the stream population of salmon and steelhead. I then got into some forestry work and have been working in stream restoration. I just wanted to give you some background as a conservationist. I am a little disappointed coming to this meeting. This is the first time I’ve been here to see one of these things in
person. I feel like there is a big question and a big part of this missing in this conversation. We live in Mendocino County. Almost all of us live in houses framed with Doug fir and Redwood. I’m not saying that looking at these recent plans that the logging was done perfectly, but everybody here in front of you is trying. They’re working professionals that think about this all day every day and to hear these interruptions being shouted out across the room as if your opinion is more important than every single other opinion in this room is discouraging. We all have an equal opinion. All of you say you all are forest landowners, and that all comes into play. JDSF goes and logs this job, and then there is a big pocket of money there to go fix the roads and do all these things you guys want. So, there’s big benefits to it. I think we should be asking the question of how do we log better, and recognize there is a place for active management. I would argue that a lot of Jackson State Forest is that place. Thank you.

**GH:** Thank you

**P:** Hello my name is George. I will be very brief. There are slash piles in Redtail THP that are three times as tall as I am.

**GH:** And they’re ugly.

**P:** Hi, I’m double dipping a bit, but I will be more brief. If you are building a house today and you are framing it out of redwood. You’ve got money on your side, because the normal person is not doing that. There are much more sustainable ways to build a house than redwood. It’s a beautiful wood, but it’s for decks, siding, and fences, and there are much more sustainable ways. I would also like to point out that CAL FIRE doesn’t acknowledge that climate change is human caused. It says it in each one of their THP’s. It says on there that they don’t think that there’s enough evidence to say that climate change is human caused and I feel like that gives you guys a bill of sale to do whatever you want, because you’re not making a difference. What you’re doing in the forest does not impact the global climate, and that’s absolutely bogus. There’s so much science out there, that’s very evident. You can look at two charts side by side. Human, when we started emitting carbon global temperatures started shooting up. The last time that happened is when the dinosaurs were extinct.

**GH:** Okay, thank you. State your name

**P:** Hi my name is Linda. I think I want to answer John’s question to David. There’s obviously a huge disconnect here, in case you haven’t noticed. I do not appreciate having the JAG put between me and the forest managers. I would like it to be a dialogue, not the put your question in a box, or put your dime in the gum machine. I do not like this format. I’d really appreciate it being a dialogue and this is in the way of it all. I don’t know exactly what the answer is, but I do believe that you are out of step with really reality, and we need you to hear us, because we really have some important things to say about that. Standing here, with you there, and me allowed my three minutes feels like a set up and for a failure of communication, and I don’t like it a bit. Hack and squirt is a public safety issue and it doesn’t have to do with a right to farm. It’s a fire issue, and I think you all know that. I have tons of questions, and I really don’t like putting my question in a box and having something come out a slot. Thank you.

**GH:** Thank you yes.

**JA:** Linda I have to agree about the format. I think we need to have these evening meetings, because it allows people to come who are working during the day, and maybe we can do more on the weekends. We have had a number of meetings you’ve been at in the field, out in the woods, and I think those
are ten times better than sitting in a building like this talking about this, and I’ve always encouraged people to take advantage of the tours. I think we’ll probably have more too. I would encourage everybody here, let’s have that dialogue. We’ve been having it, and we’ve got a lot of answers to questions, and we’re starting to get a lot of comments. Obviously, we need to talk more about that, as to how we handle that. That’s just one, but I’m looking forward to more dialogue in the woods as well.

P: Yeah, more in depth than what this is. I think this is a rather silly exercise.

KC: I’ll follow up John, that your next field tour for the JAG is the 27th at the end of this month. We’ll have an agenda out shortly. I’m not sure where it’s going to start, but it will be a field tour in the woods.

GH: Okay thank you. Our next speaker.

P: Hi, my names Roger. It seems to me that CAL FIRE and JDSF have a problem as far as credibility is concerned. I think there is a legitimate concern that CAL FIRE is reviewing JDSF’s THP’s and that’s a legitimate criticism, about objectivity. I’m wondering in terms of the review of the upcoming Forest Management Plan, whether or not a third party can get involved in the review of that? Similar to the Forest Stewardship Council’s review for certifying forests that occur on a number of forests, including in RFFI’s forest for the 50,000 ac that RFFI manages. That’s one thing that I think my help in providing more of a sense of credibility for JDSF. My sense is, that also as a person that owns a forest, that JDSF is also doing a very good job. It doesn’t mean you couldn’t do a better job, but I think that getting that third party involvement could in fact confirm, or reconfirm what’s going on is appropriate, or identify what is inappropriate, or what ought to be modified. Thank you.

GH: Okay thank you very much. We have one more person here.

P: I am a concerned citizen that lives here locally.

GH: Would you like to give us your name.

P: No I would not. I have two questions: one, when we go and play with our children in Chamberlain Creek after the rains have come, we are going to be sitting there bathing with our children, and all of the hack and squirt will come down from Chamberlain THP and the oil from the leaky equipment you guys have out there. My second question is, is there any notification to the public that you are using hack and squirt at all? Can you please answer that question. Many of the people and the recreationalists we’ve talked to have no idea that you guys are using this.

GH: I’m not a technical expert –

P: Mr. Serna will you please answer the question.

LW: I can answer, because I have experience with this. We know that Imazapyr is very immobile it does not move off site very easily. We use buffers so that it won’t get into the water. It’s in very very small quantities. I would feel confident, and I do, use the forest, and use the waters.

P: So all the fluff that’s in Chamberlain and not being watered down, when the rains come, guess where that’s going. Two hundred feet down the hill into the creek.
**LW:** Our THP’s include measures to protect watercourses, to address that issue.

**P:** Right now it is failing.

**P:** My other question to the JAG is if everyone is so concerned about indigenous rights and indigenous stewardship of the land then why are they not sitting here with you. Why do we not have members of Coyote Valley sitting here? We shouldn’t be doing anything unless we have everybody at the table. The public is crying for you guys to hear us, and they are literally a phone call away. Why are we not asking them? They were here way before us, and they have every right, more than we do, to take care of this land. Logging might have deep roots in this community, but there are roots that go a hell of a lot deeper and they don’t belong to many of us in this room. Please, we have kids. All of us have kids, and I would like to see my kids have healthy lands, and healthy forests. What I see happening at Caspar, and what I see happening at Chamberlain, all of the THP’s that you guys are working on are being destroyed. Thank you.

**GH:** Okay so, thank you very much for that. Let’s go ahead to the fire hazard mitigation work. We’re behind schedule, but I think we’re going to be able to catch up. This is a pretty significant subject. Who is going to do the presentation on that?

**TN:** I am.

**TN:** Okay we are going to move into the fire hazard mitigation topics. Some of the topics that we saw with the public comment -

**P (holding hands):** Moratorium! Moratorium! Save the trees! Land back! Worth more standing! We will not leave! No more logging! Stop poisoning the water! Moratorium! Moratorium! No more logging until we’re all at the table.

**P:** Moratorium! Moratorium! Moratorium! Moratorium!

**AW:** Thank you, I appreciate your voice. I would like hear –

**P:** We would like a moratorium!

**AW:** Fire hazard presenta -

**P:** Moratorium! Moratorium! Moratorium! Moratorium!

**AW:** There have been a number of questions this evening about fire management and fire hazard management. I would like to hear more about the fire hazard management.

**P:** Moratorium! Moratorium!

**AW:** But if the public doesn’t want to hear about fire hazard management –

**P:** Moratorium! Moratorium!

**AW:** Maybe we should consider finishing the meeting.
**P:** Moratorium! Moratorium! Protect what’s left. Worth more standing! Moratorium! Moratorium!

**GH:** Let’s take a ten minute break

**P:** Moratorium! Moratorium! For the children. Worth more standing. Not a tree farm. No more hack and squirt. Save the trees. For the children! Worth more standing. Save the trees. Worth more standing!

**P:** For the children! Worth more standing. For the future! Save what’s left! For the children! Save the animals! Save the trees! Worth more standing!

**P:** Hey guys. While we’re all here I wouldn’t mind saying something to the JAG. Well, the ones that are listening. The JAG didn’t come about by accident, and it wasn’t from CAL FIRE’s good graces. The JAG was fought for in the early 2000’s, in a very extensive legal battle and out of that came the JAG. The JAG spent 2.5 years working on a consensus that was nonbiased, to take to the Board of Forestry. They did that for 2.5 years battling back and forth to figure out what’s best for managing the Forest. They delivered that recommendation to the Board of Forestry, and the Board of Forestry picked through it and took everything that was pro cut trees, and everything else that was pro-recognition and pro-conservation and decided that they don’t need that. That it’s not really necessary. My question to the JAG is, if the Board of Forestry doesn’t listen to you, and doesn’t take anything you say seriously, why should we? The Board of Forestry has basically created the illusion that the public has a say in what goes on in this forest. The public has no say in the management of this forest. We just have the illusion of a say in what goes on in this forest. The Board of Forestry doesn’t listen to what you say -

**GH:** Okay let’s reconvene the JAG meeting. You know the intent of this meeting was to have a dialogue. I think that has ended. My suggestion is that we adjourn this meeting, and these topics be taken up at a later date, maybe out in the field. Do other JAG members have any comments on that?

**AW:** I am in support of continuing this meeting later at the field tour. One of the reasons I love being on the JAG is because of the incredibly rich conversations we have together. We have the privilege of participating in these conversations regularly, and the more we can invite the public to participate would be great. I know we have a field tour coming up and perhaps the public can continue this conversation at that field tour.

**P:** Why is it not until the 27th of August? Why not sooner?

**GH:** Are there any other comments.

**AW:** Sooner would be right now if conversation could be quieted.

**P:** Moratorium! Moratorium! Moratorium!

**GH:** Any other JAG members want to comment?

**JA:** I would concur. Like I said earlier meetings out in the woods are a lot more productive than this.

**P:** Moratorium! Moratorium! Save the oaks!
GH: Okay I would entertain a motion to adjourn this meeting. Is there a second.

(Doug Albin raises hand)

GH: Okay Doug Albin

P: Stop logging until the 27th of August!

GH: Is there any more discussion of the motion?

P: No more logging roads! Moratorium! Moratorium!

GH: all those in favor of the motion signify by saying EYE

JAG Members: EYE

GH: Okay. Motion carries, thank you.

Meeting ended at 2100.

End of Report.